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AMMAN SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1993, JUMADA ALAWAL 7, 1414

Price: 150 Fils

Qatari leader leaves

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sheikh Mohammad Ben Hamad Al Thani, elder brother of the emir of Qatar, left Amman Friday at the end of the three-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, Sheikh Mohammad was received by His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and other senior officials. Qatari Ambassador Nasser Abdul Aziz Al Nasser Friday hosted a lunch in honour of Sheikh Mohammad. It was attended by Upper House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Royal Court Advisor Yanai Hikmat, several Cabinet ministers and senior officials.

Iran-Iraq talks end

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iranian official returned to Tehran after talks in Baghdad on normalising ties between the two former Gulf war foes. Tehran Television reported Friday. Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Zarif returned home late Thursday after his four-day visit. Speaking on television, Mr. Zarif said that outstanding issues from the 1980-88 war between the two countries dominated the talks.

'Iraq seeks contacts with Israel'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Iraq has offered to open official contacts with Israel, the Yediot Aharanot newspaper reported Friday. Iraqi government officials met an Israeli representative in a European capital recently, the biggest-selling daily said. A senior Israeli official told the newspaper that Baghdad wanted Israel to help improve its ties with the United States. Spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he had no information about the report and a foreign ministry spokesman refused to comment.

Saudis draw

DOHA (AFP) — A last-minute equaliser by Saudi Arabia's Ahmad Jamil cost South Korea the chance to go clear at the top of the Asian World Cup final qualifying group here on Friday. The two teams both have four points from three games but South Korea lead on goal difference (Iraq beats Iran, page 9).

Boycott talks postponed

DAMASCUS (R) — The Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA), said Thursday that a meeting of the Arab Boycott of Israel Office scheduled for Sunday had been postponed indefinitely. It did not give any reasons for the move.

Hijack bid foiled

SANAA (AFP) — A knife-wielding Yemeni man tried to hijack an Egyptian airliner flying from Cairo to Sanaa in northern Yemen Friday, but was overpowered by the crew, officials said. Shortly before the Egypt Air Airbus A330 touched down at Sanaa, the attacker, Ahmad Ali Abu Ali, told the crew to head for Aden, the main town in southern Yemen. The crew overpowered the hijacker and later handed him over to security officials at Sanaa airport, the source said.

Druze head named

TEL AVIV (AP) — Some 1,200 Druze clerics from Israel, Lebanon and the occupied Golan Heights confirmed Muafak Tarif of Israel as their leader Friday, Israel Radio reported. Sheikh Tarif is the grandson of Sheikh Amin Tarif, who died at 95 on Oct. 2 after leading the Druze community in Israel for over 60 years. His influence extended to Druze in Syria and Lebanon.

Israel: Qatar wants to sell gas

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal said a Gulf emirate wants to sell Israel natural gas despite a lack of diplomatic ties, his office said on Friday. Mr. Shahal was referring to Qatar, Israeli media said.

Israel cuts ban on Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel eased restrictions on Friday on Palestinians entering the Jewish state and occupied Jerusalem, a move seen as a goodwill gesture to help talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said women of all ages, men over 40 and children under 16 accompanied by an adult could enter Israel and Jerusalem. Israel radio said the measures would take effect from next Tuesday.

Mr. Shahal told reporters in Haifa that doctors and employees of the Jerusalem municipality would also be allowed in.

On Thursday the Likud bloc at the Knesset introduced and won an amendment to Jerusalem law that bars the Israeli government from entering into negotiations that might affect the status of the city without a two-third majority at the Knesset.

Palestinian leaders have demanded the government lift the seven-month-old restrictions and free Palestinian prisoners to show their people tangible results from a peace accord signed with Israel last month.

Israel agreed on Thursday in talks with Palestinians in the Red Sea resort of Tabat to

release a first batch of Arab prisoners.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said on Friday progress in the talks with the PLO would lead to further releases. "We shall start with several hundred but this is not the end of the story," Mr. Peres told visiting Jewish fundraisers. "It is on the agenda and I believe that as we progress through the negotiations more prisoners shall be released."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Israel held 9,500 prisoners but the PLO puts the figure between 12,000 and 14,000, most detained during the six-year-old Palestinian uprising.

Mr. Shahal said Palestinians with security records would still be barred from Israel. The closure was clamped on the West Bank and Gaza Strip after a spate of Arab attacks on Jews in March.

The Palestinians had warned that the talks on transferring power in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho — due to be concluded by Dec. 13 — would go nowhere if prisoners were not released.

On Thursday, an air of crisis hovered over the Tabat talks as Palestinian delegates said Israel was not meeting their minimal demands.

(Continued on page 5)

Ross leaves Syria after marathon talks

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross flew out of here Friday after marathon talks with President Hafez Al Assad on reviving the stalled Syrian-Israeli peace talks.

He discussed with Mr. Assad a visit to the region next month by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the Syrian News Agency reported at the end of more than seven hours of talks.

Mr. Ross pledged he would "work hard" to secure progress in talks between Israel and Syria when he arrived here Thursday with messages from Mr. Assad from President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

It was not clear if Mr. Ross brought to Syria any new proposals capable of ending the deadlock in its talks with Israel. The negotiations have bogged down over the Golan Heights.

Presidential spokesman Joubran Kourieh told Reuters that Mr. Ross gave Mr. Assad a message from President Clinton Thursday night.

The message affirmed "the U.S. administration's commitment to continue its efforts to find a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict," he said.

U.S. sources said Mr. Ross, who has had talks with Egyptian, Palestinian, Jordanian and Israeli leaders, was returning to the United States and would not be visiting Lebanon

— with Jordan the other Arab party to the peace talks.

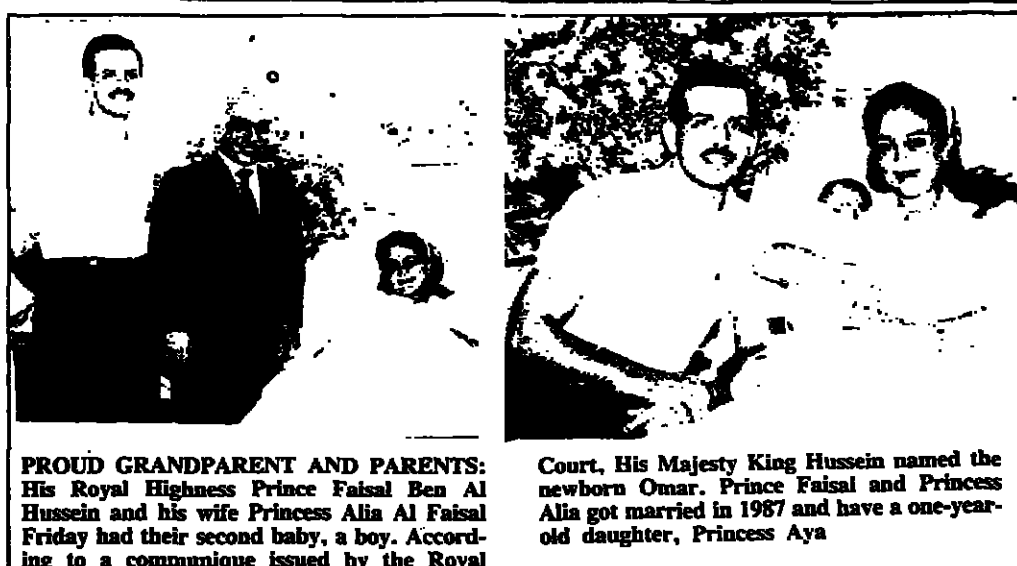
Mr. Ross briefed the Syrian leader on the outcome of his tour of the region, they added. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Friday that Israel should focus on furthering peace talks with Jordan before those with Syria.

"We cannot pick up all the burdens at once. We have to pick up one load at a time. At this stage I believe we have to do the Jordanian load before we move on to the Syrian load," he said in remarks broadcast by Israel Radio.

Mr. Peres said Israel should try to nurture negotiations with Jordan since they had already progressed to a joint agenda. The agenda was signed a day after the Sept. 13 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) self-rule deal.

"There is progress (with Jordan)... we signed with them a joint agenda. It's more than an agenda, it is essentially an outline for peace. Now we have to lift all the negotiations one level higher," Mr. Peres said. Syrian officials have threatened to boycott the next round of Arab-Israeli peace talks unless Damascus is sure of progress on the Syrian-Israeli track.

They have rejected Israeli calls for secret negotiations and separate peace agreements and insisted on a comprehensive peace settlement within the framework of the U.S.-brokered process.



PROUD GRANDPARENT AND PARENTS: His Majesty King Hussein named the newborn Omar. Prince Faisal and Princess Aya got married in 1987 and have a one-year-old daughter, Princess Aya.

Court, His Majesty King Hussein named the newborn Omar. Prince Faisal and Princess Aya got married in 1987 and have a one-year-old daughter, Princess Aya.

1 million of 1,514,000 in roster expected to collect voter cards

By Suhair Obeidat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government expects over one million of the 1,514,000 registered voters to collect their voting cards. Interior Minister Salameh Hamad was quoted as saying Friday.

The Omani News Agency (ONA) quoted the minister as saying that more than half a million voters had collected their voting cards in less than a week after the assigned centres started distributing the cards, without which voters cannot cast their ballot on Nov. 8. This is an "excellent turnout," he said.

Ministry of Interior reports have indicated an increase in the number of eligible voters who turned out to collect their cards over the last two days.

The ministry has taken a number of measures to facilitate and expedite the process. These include providing candidates with computer disks of the names of voters registered in their districts and allowing candidates and their supporters to collect cards if they produce a legalised authorisation accompanied by his/her family book.

"While these measures have helped, the process is still exorbitant despite the rosy picture that the ministry is trying to portray," said one campaign manager who did not wish to be named.

A voter has to look for his/her name sometimes

among thousands of handwritten names before the assigned centre hands out the cards. In a Third District centre, for example, there are some 20,000 names through which voters must search for their names. "It is a time-consuming and indeed frustrating process, and only those who really care are willing to spend at least two hours looking for their names," said the campaign manager.

There were also some incidents where after finally finding the name on the list, a voter would not find his/her card and is then asked to check with the governorate. "In that case, the voter just gives up and goes home," one candidate said.

Despite the ministry's attempts to ensure that there is no discrepancy in the number of voters by revising and checking the names to avoid duplication, incidents were reported of repeated names and voters obtaining more than one voting card in their name.

Critics say that a turnout of one million voters is not enough for the success of the election process. "If the government expects about one million voters to collect their cards, what about the other half million?" asked one observer.

It is believed that a low turnout would work in the favour of the Islamic Action Front, the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood, the

largest organised group, which in the 1989 elections won 23 seats of the 80-member lower house.

The group is actively engaged in facilitating the card obtaining process. It has even organised buses, cars and even trucks to transport their supporters to the polling stations on Nov. 8.

Mr. Hamad told ONA that out of the 559 who filed nominations, courts rejected four and two withdrew from the race, and the final number of candidates as of Thursday was 555.

"The door is still open for those who wish to withdraw from the race," Mr. Hamad said.

Mr. Hamad said that the elections for the 12th parliament will differ from those of 1989 in that the attitudes towards elections had changed. "Now the voter knows what he is going to elect and the deputy realises the citizen's awareness of his (the deputy's) role and duties."

The introduction of political pluralism has also brought different dimensions to the electoral process, with many candidates running on the tickets of some of the 20 political parties that have been legalised since the adoption of the political parties law in September last year, Mr. Hamad said.

The minister said that the latest developments in the peace process will affect voting trends in the Kingdom.

Jordan pursues debt relief efforts

Germany to give JD 18m in aid and JD 4m in write-off

Switzerland converts JD16.5m loans into development grant

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In addition to granting DM 43.8 million (JD 18 million) in grants and loans to Jordan for fiscal year 1994, Germany will also write off DM 9.7 million (JD 4 million) of the Kingdom's debt, a senior diplomat said Friday.

The debt relief offer was made last week in talks between Jordanian officials and a visiting German delegation, which on Thursday signed the minutes of discussions that produced the agreement on the 1994 assistance to Jordan, said Matthias Meyers, first secretary at the German embassy in Amman.

The offer, which includes a stipulation that 50 per cent of the amount to be written off would be used for environmental protection, was accepted by Jordan and will be formalised soon with an official agreement, Mr. Meyers told the Jordan Times.

The write-off will bring down Jordan's total debts to Germany to around DM 60 million (JD 25 million).

Under the agreement signed Thursday, Jordan will get DM 13.8 million (around JD 5.8 million) in technical assistance — which means grants in technical aid for development — and DM 30 million (JD 12.2 million) in soft loans during fiscal year 1994.

Mr. Meyers said one of the projects expected to be financed under the 1994 aid was the replacement of a pipeline at Kirbat Al Samra plant, Jordan's largest waste water treatment plant located 35 kilometres northeast of Amman.

Other projects under consideration include building a new

develop the Kingdom's tourism sector.

Despite the stipulation, the agreement means "full debt reduction" since the amount set aside will be used for development projects within Jordan, Mr. Gammio noted. "It is a very good beginning in realising Jordan's quest to reduce its debt overhang, and we hope other European countries would extend similar gestures," Mr. Gammio told the Jordan Times Friday.

Jordan figures among countries with the highest per capita foreign debt, he pointed out. "The burden is far beyond the scope of a country like Jordan." The finance minister emphasised that without addressing the economic problems of Jordan in a manner that reflects in terms of

Troops fire on Kashmir protesters; over 30 dead

SRINAGAR (Agencies) — Indian troops shot dead at least 31 people in Kashmir on Friday when they fired into crowds of angry Muslims on the besieged Hazratbal mosque, police and hospital sources said.

Twenty-four demonstrators were shot dead in the town of Bijbehara, some 40 kilometres south of here, while seven people died during day-long anti-Indian protests which rocked this Kashmir summer capital. A total of more than 200 people were injured as police used clubs, teargas and live ammunition to disperse demonstrators who defied a curfew and attempted to march on the Hazratbal shrine, according to the police.

Superintendent of Police Mohammad Amin said that 15 people died in Bijbehara when paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) troops opened fired to break up a 30,000-strong crowd heading for the mosque.

Doctors at Bijbehara's main hospital told AFP that 24 people had died and more than 100 had been injured, including 20 who were in serious condition.

In Srinagar, thousands of people took to the streets shouting "break the siege" and attempting to organise marches on the mosque where a group of 30 armed Muslim militants has been holed up for a week.

Most of the protests were swiftly broken up by troops using clubs and teargas but a crowd estimated at up to 20,000 people formed in the Saffa Kadal area of Srinagar and headed for the mosque some 10 kilometres from here. BSF troops first used teargas to try to halt the marchers and opened fire when they were about seven kilometres short of their destination, witnesses said.

Three people were killed and more than 50 injured in the gunfire and a stampede which followed the first bursts of automatic weapons fire, police said.

Maulvi Mohammad Abbas Ansari, a prominent Kashmiri politician who led the marchers, was among the injured, police said. He was taken to an army hospital but the extent of his injuries was not known.

Korea Gold Star to hold Amman meeting

AMMAN — The Korean Gold Star Company will hold its regional strategic meeting for the Middle East here from Oct. 25 to Oct. 28, according to a decision taken by the company's Board of Directors chairman.

The board's decision to convene the meeting in Amman was brought about by the political and economic stability Jordan enjoys. The board's chairman visited Jordan twice and received Jordan's Independence Medal of the

First Order, which was bestowed upon him by His Majesty King Hussein.

The conference aims at formulating the company's joint strategy for Gold Star Korea and Gold Star Jordan. It also seeks to implement the joint plans of the two companies. Under the plans, Gold Star Jordan will export its products abroad. A press conference on the occasion will be held Wednesday, Oct. 27, at 5:00 p.m.

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Water cooperation is vital for peace

By Nadim Kawash
Agence France Presse

ABU DHABI — Israel and the Arab states are striving to their long-standing conflict but any political settlement remains far from agreement on water, official and independent reports show.

And a similar agreement is needed further north, where relations between Turkey and its Arab neighbours Iraq and Syria have strained over sharing the Euphrates, one of the biggest rivers in the region.

All those parties have been involved in multilateral talks on water and environment within the Middle East peace negotiations but have not made as much progress as in the political field.

Except Turkey, all of them are suffering from shortages in water supplies and the gap could widen with the rapid population growth unless they reach a formula for a fair share-out and development of water resources.

"Water has become one of the main sources of conflicts that threaten the stability and future of the region," said Gaith Armanazi, head of the Arab League office in London. "The issue has also become an important issue in political and economic negotiations."

In a study for a recent London seminar published in the United Arab Emirates daily *Al Khaleej* on Friday, Mr. Armanazi added: "It has become difficult for regional states to get additional water supplies without spending large funds or entering conflicts that could destabilise the region."

A recent Arab League report drew a gloomy picture of the future of water in the region, where the population is growing by as fast as four per cent.

At present, the Arab water shortage is estimated at 44 per cent and is expected to widen to 155 billion cubic metres by the year 2000, according to Arab and United Nations reports.

By the year 2010, the gap will reach nearly 172 billion cubic metres and it will rise to 199 billion cubic metres by the year 2020 and to 259 billion

cubic metres by the year 2030, the reports showed.

The rapid population growth and lack of technology to exploit existing water resources have pushed down per capita share of water in the Arab World to 1,750 cubic metres compared with a world average of 13,900 cubic metres. Sweet water reserves have also plunged to around 7,734 cubic kilometres, only 0.07 of the world's reserves.

The Arab World's main water sources come from three major rivers, the Nile, Euphrates and Tigris. But all of them flow from outside the region.

"The area of water sources in the Arab countries is estimated at 14.3 million square kilometres but most of them are located outside these countries," the Arab League says.

Although Israel has managed to narrow the deficit, around 67 per cent of its supplies come from Arab land it seized in 1967 and 1982, the report said.

"It can be said that one of Israel's goals in its war against the Arabs is to secure water," it said. "Such goals have been achieved, with its supplies increasing by at least 25 per cent."

It said 35 per cent of the increase came from the West Bank and Jordan River, 22 per cent from Golan Heights and the rest from South Lebanon.

It said the increase was needed to cater for an influx of Jewish immigrants and a growth in population, which rose to more than 2.5 million in 1990 from 1.6 million before the 1967 war.

Ironically, oil-rich Gulf states are the only Arab states that do not suffer from a shortage in sweet water although their desert land makes them among the poorest in water resources.

Saudi Arabia and its Gulf neighbours have spent more than \$100 billion to build desalination plants, which now meet nearly 70 per cent of their needs and could be expanded in future.

Security concerns have prompted Gulf states to reject a Turkish offer to supply them with water from its twin rivers of Ceyhan and Seyhan.

Fateh officials under house arrest

TUNIS (AFP) — A number of senior officials from Fateh, the main faction, were placed under house arrest here this week amid an inquiry into the murder of a top Palestinian in the Gaza Strip, according to informed sources here.

The sources told AFP that nine Fateh officials from the Gaza Strip were put under house arrest on Sunday after being summoned for talks with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on the execution of a lawyer, Mohammad Abu Shaaban, an Arafat aide and leading moderate.

Mr. Shaaban was gunned down in the Gaza Strip on Sept. 21.

Two officials were still being held at the end of the week, the sources said.

Four of the nine refused to go to the meeting with Mr. Arafat on Sunday and were hauled in by PLO security guards, the sources said.

They added that the meeting, which centred on Mr. Shaaban's murder, lasted several hours and was very animated. The nine, seven men and two women, were placed under house arrest by the organisation immediately afterwards.

Four were released on Monday after an urgent intervention by Abu Ali Shahin, a respected PLO veteran, and two more were set free on Tuesday, the sources added.

Two remained confined to their houses on Thursday evening, while information about the last official was not forthcoming.

Mr. Shahin denied the allegations when questioned by AFP, saying an 11-strong delegation from Gaza had been in Tunis for two weeks to discuss implementation of the Sept. 13 autonomy deal signed with Israel.

Another senior PLO official in the Gaza Strip, Assad Saftawi, a close friend of Mr. Arafat's, was gunned down on Thursday.

The PLO has notably refrained from accusing anyone of carrying out either of the killings.

Israel: Arab-American is senior Hamas leader

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli military prosecutors have charged a Palestinian American arrested in January with being the overall military commander of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, security sources said Friday.

Mohammad Salah, 39, arrested on suspicion of providing funds to Hamas during a visit to the West Bank, was accused of being the mastermind behind Hamas's military infrastructure, they added.

Israeli military officials said Mr. Salah's trial "has yet to begin because of the prosecution's request to present a new indictment."

Mr. Salah's lawyer, Avigdor Feldman, was not available to comment.

Hamas and PLO activists led the Palestinian uprising which began in the Israeli-occupied territories in December 1987 but it has vowed to sabotage the Palestinian self-rule deal the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed with Israel in Sept. 13.

It was set up in 1988 as an arm of the Muslim Brotherhood.

An army spokesman said he could not check with military courts, closed on Friday and Saturday, until Sunday.

Two other Palestinian Americans arrested with Mr. Salah in January were later

released and returned to the United States.

Mr. Salah was indicted in the military court at Ramallah on the West Bank on Thursday.

He was also charged with plotting to murder Sari Nusseibeh, who heads the Palestinian technical committee preparing for autonomy in the occupied territories.

Mr. Salah was born in the West Bank refugee camp of Kalandia but was living in Chicago when he visited Jerusalem early in 1993. He allegedly trained in the United States a dozen other Palestinian-Americans to handle explosives.

The group was to be sent to the territories to carry out bomb attacks, but the plan was foiled with Mr. Salah's arrest, Israeli sources said.

The indictment was a revised version of earlier charges in which Mr. Salah had been accused of carrying tens of thousands of dollars into the country to finance a new underground structure for Hamas following the Dec. 17 expulsion of 415 Palestinian fundamentalists.

In June Mr. Salah pleaded not guilty on charges of trying to rebuild Hamas, membership of a hostile organisation, aiding an illegal organisation and sheltering a wanted man.

'Settlers' under stress over self-rule

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Psychological problems have proliferated among Jewish settlers in the occupied territories since the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed the autonomy deal on Sept. 13, a newspaper said Friday.

The accord has "provoked very great tension among individuals, families and groups," the directors of 14 Israeli community centres on the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights have reported.

The directors held a meeting in occupied Jerusalem on Thursday to discuss the mental turmoil among the settlers who number between 110,000 and 130,000, the Haaretz said.

Youngster and new immigrants from the ex-Soviet Union are the main victims of stress brought on by the autonomy agreement which came into effect on Oct. 13 but leaves responsibility for the settlements in Israeli army hands.

The divorce rate among settlers had shot up, the Haaretz added, quoting the directors, but without giving figures.

An increasing number of parents had also refused to pay in advance to enroll in the community centres saying they did not know where they would be in a few months.

Thai general on trial in Saudi case

BANGKOK (AFP) — A witness testifying in a Bangkok court has accused a senior Thai policeman and seven others of extorting some six million baht (\$240,000) in connection with the 1989 theft of jewellery from the Saudi royal family, news reports said Friday.

The witness, Colonel Wisai Suwanasorn of the police department registration division, told the Bangkok criminal court how an initial alleged theft fanned out into a growing, increasingly complex web of extortion and blackmail.

According to Col. Wisai, Lieutenant General Chalor Karthit and the others kept some of the \$20 million in jewellery and returned fake stones to the royal family in Riyadh, the reports said.

Col. Wisai was a member of the team that investigated the

theft from the home of a Saudi prince by a Thai domestic servant, Kriengkrai Techamong, who brought the jewellery to Thailand, and was later arrested and jailed for three years.

Col. Wisai charged that Gen. Chalor, then deputy commissioner of the central investigation bureau, extorted 1.2 million baht (\$48,000) from Mr. Kriengkrai's elder brother, Nihkom, to keep quiet about the theft.

He said police Captain Rithsart took 30,000 baht (\$1,200) from Nihkom in exchange for dropping charges of accepting stolen goods and being an accessory to a crime.

Another defendant, police Colonel Prasert Chantapatt, took 660,000 baht (\$26,400) from Mr. Kriengkrai's uncle, army Master Sergeant Tha-

nong Techamong, Col. Wisai said. Mr. Kriengkrai had sold some of the jewellery and Sgt. Thanong was keeping the money for him.

Also, police Major Thanit Sidokubah extorted 500,000 baht (\$20,000) from Surasak Anesirakul, who bought some of the jewellery from Mr. Kriengkrai, Col. Wisai said.

Two other policemen, Senior Sergeant Major Theng Tipalawong and Sergeant Major Sanit Kawicha, received a total of 200,000 baht (\$8,000) from Nihkom, Col. Wisai charged.

Col. Wisai did not give details of the other two defendants in the case.

The eight are charged with abuse of authority, embezzlement and extortion in a trial which will resume on Oct. 27.

2 Abu Nidal guerrillas shot dead

MARIYOUN (AP) — Israeli-backed militiamen clashed with guerrilla infiltrators in Israel's self-styled "security zone" overnight. Security sources said Friday two guerrillas of the Abu Nidal group were killed.

They said Israeli-allied militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) intercepted the three-guerrilla squad as it attempted to filter into the zone across the Arqoub region in east Lebanon.

SLA militiamen engaged the infiltrators in a five-minute firefight near Shwayya in the zone's eastern sector, killing two, the sources said. They requested anonymity.

They said one body was found on the scene and another was discovered during a subsequent hunt for other guerrillas in the raiding party. The search continued for the third guerrilla.

But the sources said the weapons and papers found on the dead guerrillas showed they were members of Fateh-Revolutionary Council. The group is headed by maverick Palestinian leader Sabri al-Banna, better known by his nom de guerre of Abu Nidal.

Israelis call on international businesses to come to Mideast

CANCUN (AP) — Israel's U.N. ambassador called on international entrepreneurs Thursday to cash in on the Middle East peace dividend by ending boycotts and creating a common market in the region.

Flanked by an official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and several Israeli business leaders, Gad Yaacobi, the ambassador to the United Nations, said that it is time for economic bridges to be built now that political walls have come down.

"Through regional cooperation, we have to establish a Middle Eastern common market," Mr. Yaacobi said during an evening session.

"Through regional cooperation, we can establish an integrated network of infrastructure, including ports, airports, railways and energy plants," he added. "Why should Israel and Jordan separately develop and maintain deep water seaports and modern airports on the tiny sliver of land where Eilat and Aqaba meet on the Red Sea?"

Israeli business leaders have been calling for increased economic links with their neighbours since even before the first Israeli-Palestinian peace accord was signed.

"We can become the Singapore of the Middle East," said Dan Gilberman, chairman of the Israeli chamber of commerce. "We have reason to believe that our region could be the next emerging economic power."

Economic links between the nations would help create revenue to reconstruct roads, schools, utility plants and other infrastructure destroyed during the Middle East conflict, said Youssef Fauzi, the PLO's ambassador to Mexico.

"We need so many things," he said. "This is an historic time and we must take advantage of it."

Moshe Sanbar, president of the Israel national committee of the international chamber of commerce and chairman of the board of directors of Bank Leumi Le-Israel, invited business leaders from around the globe to join their push for trade with the Palestinians.

"The challenge for business people is to act fast, and to use the new opportunities," Mr. Sanbar said. "By doing so new jobs will be created, the standard of living will rise, the whole atmosphere in the area will change and the risks connected with the peace process will be reduced."

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.N. agency to pursue aid mission

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The U.N. agency which looks after Palestinian refugees still sees a vital role for itself under autonomy in the occupied territories. "The agency which can deliver more rapidly will be UNRWA," said Commissioner General Iler Turkmen of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which has a West Bank and Gaza Strip staff of 8,000. After a 10-day tour of Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Strip he told a press conference Friday that part of the \$600 million foreign donor countries had pledged to help the Palestinians launch autonomy would come through the agency. UNRWA is launching \$80 million worth of projects for the one million plus refugees in the territories, or half the population. Mr. Turkmen laid the foundation stone this week for a 200-bed hospital on the Gaza Strip. "We have been clearly told the UNRWA should continue and even extend in the Gaza Strip," Mr. Turkmen said after meeting Palestinian and Israeli leaders. "We will do in the Gaza Strip what the Palestinians want us to since they are going to be responsible for health, education, etcetera."

Indonesians oppose relations with Israel

JAKARTA (R) — A group of Indonesian Muslims held a demonstration Friday to urge the Indonesian government not to recognise Israel despite its accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). About 100 Muslims burned two Israeli flags and a picture of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin after Friday prayers outside a mosque in Jakarta. "We urge the Indonesian government not to recognise the existence of Israel in Palestine land or any other land," the group, calling itself the Association of Anti-Zionism Youths and Students, said in a statement read at the demonstration. It was the first anti-Israeli demonstration since Mr. Rabin visited Indonesia a week ago to brief President Suharto, chairman of the 108-member Non-Aligned Movement, on the Israel-PLO accord. The group said the accord would only benefit Israel because only a small amount of land would be returned to Palestinians and Israel had not changed the way it treated Muslims. State Secretary Mardiono said Mr. Rabin's visit did not imply any quick move towards establishing diplomatic relations. Mr. Rabin's meeting with Mr. Suharto drew mixed reactions from Muslim leaders in Indonesia, home to the world's largest Muslim population.

Arafat's wife 'sacrificed freedom to cause'

PARIS (R) — Yasser Arafat's wife Suha, who is accompanying her husband on an official visit to France, says she sacrificed her freedom to the Palestinian cause by marrying the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman, more than twice her age. "You have to love Yasser Arafat to live with him, because it's an unbearable life for any woman," she said in a blunt interview broadcast by French Radio stations on Friday. The 29-year-old Christian researcher depicted her life since she married Mr. Arafat, a 64-year-old Muslim, last year as a frustrating, caged existence. "Not to see your husband when you want, not to be able to go out, to be cloistered all the time, to have bodyguards all the time, to lose your freedom... it's very, very difficult," she said. "But everything has its price and this is a sacrifice for the Palestinian cause, to build a state for the Palestinian people. It's worth it," she said. Suha Arafat, lived in Paris for eight years and recalled fondly her student days going to theatres, cinemas and street cafes in the French capital. "Paris no longer means the same for me. Now I have to go around all the time with bodyguards," she said. Daughter of Palestinian journalist Raymond Tawil, she said she longed to return to Jerusalem, where she lived until the age of 18, and to visit the house in Ramallah, where she was born.

Rebel Kurds kill 24 civilians in raid

ANKARA (R) — Separatist rebel Kurds killed 24 women and children in a raid on a village in southeast Turkey, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said Friday. Guerrillas of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) attacked Derince village in Siirt province Thursday night, killing 15 children and nine women, the agency added. Ten people were wounded when the guerrillas opened fire on the village with rockets and automatic weapons, it said. The PKK, accusing journalists of biased reporting, has banned reporting from the region by threatening to make journalists there a target. Five major newspapers halted operations in the regional capital of Diyarbakir on Tuesday. In another attempt to assert control over the mainly-Kurdish region, the PKK on Thursday issued a statement banning all political activity in the southeast and threatening members of political parties. More than 7,500 people have been killed in Turkey since 1984 when the PKK launched a bloody fight for an independent Kurdish state in the region.

Human rights may figure in Mubarak visit

CAIRO (AFP) — U.S. leaders should hold President Hosni Mubarak accountable for massive judicial abuse and torture in Egypt during his forthcoming visit to Washington, an American human rights group said Friday. In a report, Middle East Watch said U.S. leaders should "vigorously question" Mr. Mubarak on the practices of incommunicado detention and torture by the security forces, "unfair" trials of Muslim militants, and increasing restrictions on the freedom of speech. Mr. Mubarak arrives in Washington Saturday for a five-day visit. The organisation said many of the policies used by Cairo to counter Muslim militants fighting a violent campaign against the authorities were in breach of international law and Egypt's own constitution. "In view of the deteriorating human rights situation in Egypt, Middle East Watch calls on policymakers in the White House and on Capitol Hill to hold President Mubarak publicly accountable for his government's poor record," the report said. The organisation, which is a branch of the New York-based Human Rights Watch, pinpointed torture, mass preventive detention, the taking by police of militants' family members as hostages, and trial of civilians in military tribunals as the worst Egyptian abuses.

Rebels elect leader's wife as 'Iran's future president'

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian rebels have named their leader's wife, a veteran of the decade-old underground war against the Tehran regime, as "Iran's future president," the dissidents reported Friday.

The National Council of Resistance in Iran said in a statement that "acting as the resistance's parliament," it had unanimously elected Maryam Rajavi to head a transitional administration when the Tehran regime is overthrown.

It said that her "term as president will terminate upon the adoption of a constitution of the new republic by the constituent and national legislative assembly and the election of Iran's new president."

The statement, telefaxed to the Associated Press in Nicosia, said an announcement of Mrs. Rajavi's election by the 235-member council was broadcast across Iran Friday by the rebel's Radio station in Iraq.

The council is dominated by the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, the main opposition movement which is based in Iraq. Mrs. Rajavi is co-leader of the Mujahadeen with her husband Massoud.

The announcement of Mrs.

Rajavi's election, and the council's expansion last month by 121 members to broaden its political base, indicated that the Mujahadeen is focusing now on establishing political credentials.

Earlier this year, the Mujahadeen's military wing, the National Liberation Army of Iran (NLA), intensified its attacks inside the Islamic republic. They hit oil facilities as well as military targets and Tehran admitted that the rebels had escalated their operations.

But the Mujahadeen has not claimed any raids of any significance since May. There has been no explanation of this slump in its military operations.

But in recent weeks, the Mujahadeen has clearly been concentrating on its political campaign and structures to provide a provisional administration in Tehran when the time comes.

Rebel leaders claim that the Tehran regime will soon collapse because of internal power struggles, growing popular discontent and a stagnant economy, worsened by U.S. efforts to isolate Iran.

While there is no doubt that



Mariam Rajavi

the regime has troubles, there has been no sign that it is about to crumble.

The council held its first session as the Iranian resistance movement's self-styled parliament-in-exile at a Mujahadeen base in Iraq near the Iranian border last month.

Mrs. Rajavi, 40, became a political activist in the struggle against the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in the late 1960s and joined the Mujahadeen underground in 1971.

The Mujahadeen was allied with the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Islamic fundamentalists during the revolution. After the Shah was toppled in 1979, the fundamentalists turned on the Mujahadeen and other leftist and liberal groups who wanted a more secular regime.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Ph El Heracle
17:41	L'Ecole Des Fois
18:30	Beauvauhir
19:00	News in French
19:15	Ushma
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:30	The Family Boy
21:00	Da Boat's On
21:30	Faces and Places
22:00	News in English
22:20	Feature Film: "Stopy"
PRAYER TIMES	
06:23	Fajr
05:30	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:30	Dhuhr
14:30	'Asr
17:00	Maghrib
18:17	'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifield, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624591	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 623366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assuan International Church Tel. 652526	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624326	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 641195	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654902	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675491	
WEATHER	
It will be partly cloudy with a chance of thunderous showers. Winds will be southerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, it is partly cloudy and dusty with a chance of thunderous showers. Winds will be southerly moderate to active and sea rough.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	16 / 27
Aqaba	22 / 34
Jericho	13 / 29
Jordan Valley	23 / 34

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Aqaba 24. Humidity readings: Amman 42 per cent. Aqaba 20 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mohammad Al Nahawi 819213

Dr. Jandil Marqaa 776149

Dr. Wafiqah Halabi 819233

Dr. Jassal Jithari 847351

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asena pharmacy 637055

Nahrain pharmacy 623672

Al Salame pharmacy 636739

Yacoub pharmacy 645945

Shmiesani pharmacy 637660

Najih pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ali Al Omari 272032

Al Ouds Pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Zayed Al Aitani (—)

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police [92, 63]111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 643402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630231

Hotel Complaints 665080

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints 897411

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 731111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 640100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53320

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53320

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/332

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6

Al-Bach Maternity, J. Amn. 64441/2

Jahat Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmiesani 664171/4

Shmiesani Hospital 669151

University Hospital 845845

Al-Musashir Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Mutajreen 771101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26

Army, Marka 891611/25

Queen Alia Hospital 602340/50

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)905601

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)909091

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (012)75555

Greek Catholic Hospital (012)772275

Rn Al Nafces Hospital (012)547101

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:30	Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
05:30	Cairo (RJ)
06:30	New Delhi (RJ)
09:15	Dhahran (RJ)
09:30	Aqaba (RJ)
09:30	Karachi, Dhaka (RJ)
09:55	Bahrain (RJ)
10:30	Colombo (RJ)
17:00	Cairo (RJ)
17:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:00	Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ)
18:30	London, Berlin (RJ)

Interfaith group finalises business code of ethics

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, a series of interfaith consultations among followers of the three Abrahamic religions (Islam, Christianity and Judaism) have been held since 1984 and on Oct. 15-17 a consultation was convened in Amman which Their Royal Highnesses were joined by Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, to finalise the formulation of a code of ethics for business.

The declaration also incorporates the best of contemporary business practice. It will be published in several different languages so that it may have wider dissemination among various audiences in the world.

The meeting also dealt with the theme of "Richness in Diversity" from the perspectives of the religions.

Prince Hassan delivered a paper in which he stressed that Islamic culture has flourished on the basis of social and cultural pluralism, and the diversity of its followers (see full text on page 4).

The Crown Prince also stressed that the contributions of Christians and Jews, especially in the arts and thought, to what has been

regarded as a monolithic Islamic civilization.

Rabbi Norman Solomon presented the second paper which demonstrated the different strands in the Jewish tradition that affirmed a recognition of the richness in diversity. This diversity, said Dr. Solomon, is to be cherished as a testimony to the glory of God, who is too great to be contained in one tradition.

Professor Kerkhofs delivered a paper from a Christian (Catholic) viewpoint. He emphasised the radical change in Catholic theology concerning other religions announced in Vatican II.

Focusing on Europe, Prince Hassan expressed his particular concern for the plight of religious minorities living in Europe.

King passes directives to Khaled Karaki

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a message to Khaled Karaki who was appointed advisor to the King and president of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al Bait Foundation), praising him for his service and passing him directives on his new mission.

Dr. Karaki had served as Chief of the Royal Court until Oct. 14.



Khaled Al Karaki

In his message, the King said that one of Dr. Karaki's tasks will be to supervise the publication of the Hashemite documents in addition to following up the general cultural developments in the Kingdom.

"These documents should be published because they reflect Jordan's modern history and they are for Jordan and the Jordanian people and the coming generation," said the King.

"I entrust you also with the task of meeting the requirements of the new Al al Bait University (now being established in the Mafrqa region), as we attach hope to this institution where the young people of the Arab and Islamic worlds

will gather and where they will receive education, enabling them to confront the challenges of the future," said King Hussein.

"I also hope that in addition to these responsibilities you will work closely with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at Al al Bait Foundation so that your joint efforts would contribute towards attaining the nation's aspirations and objectives," King Hussein added.

Jordan, Egypt to work on resuming joint panel meetings

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Egypt will soon work towards the resumption of meetings by the Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Joint Committee, according to Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan.

Mr. Hassan made the statement Thursday following a one-day visit to Jordan by Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa who was received by His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali.

The resumption of the joint committee meetings, after a break of more than three years, was one of the topics Mr. Musa discussed with King Hussein in reviewing Jordanian-Egyptian relations, said Mr. Hassan.

Describing Mr. Musa's visit and his talks with Jordanian officials as cordial and brotherly, Mr. Hassan said that several issues of concern to the two countries, including the Middle East peace process, were scrutinised at the meetings.

He stressed that Egypt is not playing the role of a mediator. He also voiced optimism that the Israeli-Syrian and the Israeli-Lebanese tracks will soon witness real progress.

Asked about recent reports that Egypt was working towards organising an Arab summit meeting, Mr. Musa said that it was premature to talk about this subject and that the summit could be held later, after solidarity has been achieved and differences removed among Arab countries.

On whether his visit was connected to the visit of President Hosni Mubarak to Saudi Arabia Wednesday and the issue of Arab reconciliation, he said: "All issues are open for discussions, whether they are related to the peace process or the situation in the Arab World, because these issues are intertwined."

The discussions covered the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israeli agreement on self-rule in the Gaza Strip

and Jericho and the peace process in general, he said.

The two sides stressed the need for maintaining close contacts on these and other matters, said Mr. Hassan.

Arabs, Europeans to discuss ethics in economy

By Kathrine Rath
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At the initiative of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) and in cooperation with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, a symposium entitled "Ethics in Economy: European perspectives" begins today (Saturday) at the Forte and Hotel.

A total of 47 scholars, bank and officials from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, as well as Germany, will attend the two-day event.

The discussion will focus on the influence of religion on norms in a present as well as future perspective, using a comparative approach between Islamic and Christian ethics.

According to ATF Secretary General Ali Umleil, the global changes experienced in the last years as well as the recent national developments, which have had an important effect

on the economic order, have actualised a debate on future social and economic development. The symposium will provide a forum for such debate, he said.

There has been a trend towards a more open economy and privatisation in the Islamic world lately, signifying a move away from the state-led economies of the 60s and 70s. One of the questions that needs to be debated, according to Dr. Umleil, is what role the state should be playing in this new economic order.

There might exist a consensus as to the state acting as a guarantor of the "rules of the game" through legislation and application of the law, but there is a need to define the areas and the extent of state activity. Dr. Umleil said, pointing to the problems of responsibility for social security and the protection of workers' rights in a market economy.

The core of the matter is the question of how to combine a commitment to religious and moral values, including social

justice, with the creation and operation of a viable economy, he explained.

The symposium will draw from the German experience of the social market economy model and will look at Christian ethics in the German economic system and how it is applied. There will also be a discussion of religious values in money and banking, as well as a comparison between Islamic and Christian financial and economic concepts, according to Dr. Umleil.

In his address to the 48th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations earlier this month, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan touched on the theme of the symposium when he called for "a new global business ethic" to be applied. Such an ethic, he said, "would be wholly reconcilable with human rights, with pluralism, with care for the environment, with basic religious values."

The Crown Prince will be one of the speakers at the opening session of the symposium.

Experts spend 2 days debating content, value and future of PLO-Israel accord

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Was the self-rule agreement reached between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel a victory for the Palestinians or a defeat? Was it possible to reach a better agreement? And, now that the agreement is signed, what is next?

More than 20 researchers and experts in Palestinian affairs failed to concur on these and other questions in a specialised seminar organised by Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre in cooperation with the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) and held over two days last week.

Although most participants agreed that the end of the cold war, the collapse of the Soviet Union, the financial and political 'siege' on the PLO and the Gulf crisis were the main factors that led to the PLO signing of the accord, some insisted that there was "more to it."

For Mohammad Nazzal, spokesperson of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in Amman, the reasons that "drove the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat," into signing the agreement were more related to Mr. Arafat's fears and apprehensions over the PLO's future.

According to Mr. Nazzal, Mr. Arafat's fears stem from three factors: the growing power of mainstream Palestinian leadership in the occupied territories that might take over from the PLO; the increased importance of the Jordanian role following more "talk" about confederation and a united kingdom; and the role of opposition forces in the occupied territories and the Islamists in particular.

Tawfiq Abu Baker, a researcher in Palestinian affairs and a member of the Palestine National Council (PNC), believes that the accord was reached at this moment in time because the "PLO reached a conclusion that if there was no rapid (signature), the organisation would collapse, and the Israeli Labour Party became fully convinced that if there were no agreement this would lessen its chances of regaining power in future Israeli elections," he said.

While some participants argued that the accord was not a departure from the Palestinian path, others charged that the PLO leaders deviated from the agreed-upon basis that led to the organisation's participation in the Arab-Israeli peace talks in the first place.

"The constants that were set as bases for signing any agreement with Israel were violated," said Saji Salameh, also a PNC member. "The Palestinian issue is a national issue and not one of refugees or a cause that only concerns a fragment of the Palestinian people."

Between supporters and opponents of the agreement, the participants hotly debated and projected what should be done "now that the accord has been signed."

"Pro or anti-accord, the peace issue has been solved on the Palestinian level and on the Arab level since the Madrid conference," said Mr. Salameh. "What has to be looked into at present is that the accord fails to meet the agreed-upon standards set at

the start. There was no mentioning of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242," he said. In addition, Mr. Salameh asked, "what will happen to Jerusalem?"

Researcher Labib Qamhawi criticised both the accord and the Palestinian leadership itself. "Why is it that every time Yasser Arafat creates a problem we feel we should gather around the leadership for the sake of what is called 'national unity'?" he asked. "Everyone can see that in the accord there is no mention of the word 'withdrawal' but 'redemption', apart from the fact that terms of self-determination and sovereignty are nonexistent."

Journalist Lamis Andoni questioned whether the Palestinian leadership, both opposition and organisation, are capable of 'continuing' at this stage now that "the trans-

fer of authority to the occupied territories can breed new leaderships, some of which might cooperate with occupation forces?"

Strongly dismayed with what he described as violent and unfair attacks on the Palestinian leadership, Walid Ja'afari, an expert and a researcher in Palestinian and Israeli affairs, said that the "Palestinian leadership has committed some mistakes but was also right in other instances and was able to achieve many things ... there is land regardless of the area; there are people regardless of their number and there is power regardless of its 'being transitional or not'."

Ziad Abu Ghanimeh, member of the Executive Bureau of the Islamic Action Front, said that all of this talk is a waste of time because "reconciliation with the Jews is prohibited in

Islamic Sharia."

Mr. Ghanimeh said that if the Jordanian government wanted to prove it was democratic, it has to call for a referendum since "the Jordanian government has not consulted the Jordanian people and the Palestinian people have not had their say in the 'Jewish-Israeli' accord."

He said he believed that if there were really a referendum, it would be known to all that the majority is not pro-accord as the leaders claim because "half of the Palestinian people (refugees of 1948) are against it because they are deprived of the right of return; the rest are either with Hamas, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) or the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), and all of these do not support the agreement."

Critical of all opponents and

proponents to the agreement, Faisal Hourani, expert in Palestinian affairs and a PNC member, stressed that there should be an overall assessment of the recent developments and not the passing of "black and white" judgements.

"I haven't heard, even in the ranks of the supporters, any mentioning of the profit the Palestinian people are going to make out of this agreement ... as if the value of blood, killing and murder are the only honourable ones," he said, indicating that if the Palestinians reached the agreement in the 1970s, the situation would have been better, and if they did not sign it now, it would be worse in the future.

"Both the opponents and the proponents of the agreement are in crisis ... they have given more promises to the people than they can fulfil."

Chemical engineers recommend creation of pan-Arab society

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day chemical engineering conference which ended at the University of Jordan Thursday called for the creation of a pan-Arab society of chemical engineers.

Held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the conference recommended in a statement issued here Friday that chemical engineers work towards re-

ducing the amount of pollution to the environment, arrange for the recycling of waste products such as paper, plastic and glass and help in the transfer of modern technology to Jordan and the rest of the Arab World.

The conference, which was attended by 250 participants from 25 Arab and foreign countries said that small chemical industries should be en-

couraged through assistance from engineers associations which could establish a special fund to grant loans to chemical engineers to start small businesses.

The participants, who reviewed 105 papers from Jordan and the other participating countries, emphasised the need to maintain closer contact and cooperation.

Potash company plans final expansion

JARAK (Petra) — The Arab Ash Company (APC) plans to execute the second and last expansion project designed to increase potash production to 2.2 million tonnes annually, according to APC Board Chairman Ali Ensour.

Speaking during a visit to the APC plant near the southern of the Dead Sea Thursday, Sheikh Mohammad Ben Fadl Al Thani of Qatar, Mr. Ensour said the expansion project, which is expected to be completed by 1997, was estimated to cost \$320 million.

Referring to other projects, Mr. Ensour said that the company was currently working with the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and a consortium of Japanese firms to conduct a chemical industry

project exploiting minerals and Dead Sea salts.

APC also plans to set up a plant for the production of table salt and industrial salt and is currently studying bids from international firms for the project, he said.

After completion, the project is expected to produce around 30,000 tonnes of table salt and 1.2 million tonnes of industrial salts annually, said Mr. Ensour.

In referring to the APC plant, established in 1956, Mr. Ensour said the company has a JD 72.5 million capital owned by the Jordanian government together with the Arab Mining Company, and the governments of Iraq, Libya, Kuwait and the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank.

According to Mr. Ensour, the APC plant, which produced 1.4 million tonnes of potash in 1990, will produce 1.8 million tonnes in 1994.

Sheikh Mohammad, brother of the Emir of Qatar, later visited Al Karak government community college and donated \$500,000 to the college.

He also visited the tomb of Jaafar Ibn Abi Taleb, one of the companions of the Prophet Mohammad buried in Jordan, and later called at Muta University.

Accompanying the Qatari guest were Minister of Youth Abdullah Oweidat, Minister of Higher Education Khaled Al Omari and Qatari Ambassador to Jordan Nasser Ben Abdul Aziz Al Nasser.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly listings and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Mukhlid Al Mukhtar entitled "Colours on Black Paper" at La Casa Exhibition Hall (5th Circle).
- Jerash gems by Paula Williams-Brown and portraits by Ahmad Ismail at the Gallery Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental (8:00 a.m. - 7 p.m. daily except Friday).
- Photo and painting exhibition on environment at the University of Jordan Exhibition Hall.
- Exhibition of Chinese products at the International Exhibition Centre.
- Art exhibition by artist Sabah Hadidi at the Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).
- Art exhibition entitled "The Spirit of the Youth" by artist Muhammad Al Lahham at the Baladna Art Gallery.

- Art exhibition by artist Farouq Lambaz at the Alia Art Gallery.
- The Petra Exhibition — a presentation of the activities of Jordanian and international institutions involved in archaeological, ethnographic and environmental research in the Petra region at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of handicrafts at Abu Jaber estate, Yadondeh (next to Kan Zaman).
- Art exhibition by artists Mahmoud Taha and Salman Abbas at Ab'ad Art Gallery.
- Art exhibition by artist Mahmoud Al-Ubaidi at the French Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of etchings by Mohammad Omar Khalil at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing the permanent exhibition. Telephone 643251/2.

DIALOGUE

- Dialogue with Egyptian actress Firdous Abdul Hamid at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
مجلس النشر العربي مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

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Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Crime against peace

THE ASSASSINATION in Gaza Thursday of moderate Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Assad Saftawi serves as a sad and shocking warning of the cycle of violence that could accompany the implementation of the Palestinian self-rule deal with Israel.

While no sufficient evidence exists to hold any party responsible for the murder of Saftawi, the implications of what this incident represents are clear to all. But such heinous acts of violence against Palestinian activists are likely to draw the area into the abyss of hate and distrust, starting a process of political assassinations that could only undermine the whole future of the occupied territories and the region. The peace process and the promise of a resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict that the autonomy accord holds out are the target here, whatever the particular motive for any killing may be. The future of the whole region could thus be jeopardised by the failure of the PLO and Israel to implement the deal.

For this reason, the assassination of Saftawi should be condemned by all parties to the Arab-Israeli peace process, and the search for the perpetrators of this crime should be supported by Israel and the Palestinians alike. Political assassinations should be fought by all because it is pure terrorism that have to be rejected by everybody anyway. The assassins of Saftawi should be pursued and punished because their act is an indication of the indiscriminate violence that they are willing to fuel in order to make their view prevail.

Saftawi is a loss not only to the PLO and its Chairman Yasser Arafat whom he helped establish the Fateh movement but is also a blow to all Palestinians and to the cause of peace in the region. His long history of work for the Palestinian cause and his acceptance by almost all Palestinian factions explain the widespread public grief that his death evoked. Should his assassins be fellow Palestinians, they will have overlooked Saftawi's devotion to the Palestinian cause before they emptied their guns in his head. This is a fearful sign that the violence will escalate.

There are already several theories as to who might have killed the Gaza leader. Some point the fingers of blame at Israel, some hold those groups which reject the PLO-Israel accord to be responsible, and there are others, like Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who allege that Saftawi was murdered by opponents of Mr. Arafat within his Fateh organisation.

Investigations will hopefully soon reveal the identity of the murderers. Until then, and regardless of who committed the crime, the challenge for Arafat and his team is to put the Palestinian house in order and take appropriate measures to prevent the cycle of violence from casting a cloud of fear over the occupied territories. In doing so, the PLO chairman must be helped by all those who stand to lose as much as the Palestinians if the extremists prevail and the PLO fails to maintain peace and order in the areas that will soon come under its direct control.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IN HIS address at the Royal War College, King Hussein reiterated Jordan's commitment to peace based on justice and said again that Amman will support the independent decision of the Palestinian leadership. The PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, has all the rights to take measures leading to the liberation of the oppressed people of Palestine, said the paper, quoting the King's words. It said that Jordan, like the other parties involved in the peace process, ought to get involved in the battle for a peace that can be acceptable to the future generations. The peace process, said the paper, is fraught with challenges and manoeuvres requiring from the Palestinians closer unity of ranks and cooperation in order to make the biggest possible gains through negotiations with the Israelis, the paper continued. Praising the Armed Forces, the King said that the Armed Forces are needed to ensure protection for the homeland and to contribute to the U.N. peacekeeping efforts around the world, said the paper. The paper referred to the coming general elections, urging the people to vote for those who can best represent their hopes and their aspirations and are worthy of confidence. The paper said that the King's speech set clear guidelines and reiterated the Kingdom's adherence to its principled stand vis-a-vis regional issues and domestic affairs.

WRITING in Al Dustour, Mohammad Daoud drew the concerned authorities' attention to the need to take precautionary measures ahead of the winter season so as to safeguard lives and property. The heavy damage caused by the torrential rain in Maan and Aqaba over the past three days, said the writer, point among other things to the fact that the local authorities did not give due attention to the construction of bridges, streets and culverts. The heavy damage to property could have been less had there existed strong bridges and other infrastructure elements to withstand the storm, he said. The storms which caused extensive damage to property two years ago in the same regions should have sounded the alarm for the local authorities, urging them to take extra precautions and ensure safety of lives and property, added the writer. He said the present facilities and the infrastructure which were sufficiently strong 10 years ago are in need of repair and new plans to strengthen the structures should have been long prepared. The writer said that the local authorities are called on to reexamine the situation and take speedy measures that can deal with emergency situations which, he said, could be hit by the coming winter.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

Arab reconciliation — the right step at a critical juncture

The visit to Jordan Thursday of Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa and the message he brought to His Majesty King Hussein from President Hosni Mubarak had, no doubt, a lot to do with the shift in inter-Arab relations in the wake of the dramatic developments in the Middle East peace process.

To a large extent, it would seem that Jordan's efforts to achieve an honourable reconciliation in the Arab World and heal the painful wounds left behind by the Gulf crisis are bearing fruit.

The fact that Mr. Musa flew in from Saudi Arabia after attending talks between King Fahd and President Mubarak was most telling since the implication was clear that the Saudi leader is closely involved in the process.

The next logical step, of course, is a visit by King Hussein to Egypt for talks with President Mubarak and seal a reconciliation between Amman and Cairo and then to follow it up with meeting with leaders of the Gulf states.

An Arab summit, an idea that some of the Gulf leaders had been ruling out for quite some time now, could follow, not necessarily because of the need to improve the Arab atmosphere but because of the pressing sense of urgency to forge an Arab strategy to deal with the new realities brought in by the breakthroughs in Arab-Israeli peacemaking.

It may be redundant to say this, but it has not only to be said but clearly understood by all players in the Middle East and elsewhere in the Arab World that the long sought-for break for peace in the region is here, but the Arabs may not be the beneficiaries of the process without a consolidated, united and coordinated position to deal with Israel and the possibilities that peace would open up in the region.

The objective of a coordinated Arab stand should not be allowed to be overshadowed by the ghosts of the Gulf crisis. Those who allow it would be failing their own people if only because strains in inter-Arab relations are not a normal state of affairs and could only facilitate Israeli designs and goals to reap the benefits of peace without meeting the minimum requirements of peace — a complete withdrawal from the territories it occupied in the 1967 war, recognition of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people, including the right of independent statehood, and the right of those displaced in the Middle East wars to return home or receive compensation.

Last, but not least, is Jerusalem. Without a strong Arab and Islamic stand, it is a foregone conclusion that Israel would ever be willing to acknowledge and accept the fact that the Muslims

have an eternal right to the Holy City.

These most obvious factors in Arab-Israeli peacemaking have remained constant and will remain constant unless the Arabs are willing to rise above their differences to reach a point where approaches to achieving common objectives are not only drawn up but fully adhered to regardless of any external pressure or consideration.

True, the wounds inflicted on the Arab psyche by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait are hard to heal, not the least because of the very reality that it targeted the sovereignty of an Arab country.

Jordan does not have any magic potion to heal those wounds, but it does have a right to reject the convenient explanations that it was somehow a party to the affair beyond its earnest quest to avert the devastating war that followed.

What Jordan seeks is a better understanding of its position and an acceptance of what the realities of its conduct on the Arab scene for decades have indicated: that it never stood against Arab consensus, was never a party to aggression of any nature, upheld pan-Arab obligations despite negative consequences on its national interests and always placed its limited but entire resources at the disposal of the Arab World whenever it was warranted.

To cite the Gulf crisis and cite Jordan's refusal to join the military coalition against Iraq as a breach of Arab agreements is simply not fair because the crisis had pitted Arabs against Arabs — something that King Hussein always sought to avoid — and the Jordanian position was one of neutrality supported by a herculean effort to avoid a war.

This is history now, but it needs to be brought up if only to underline Jordan's earnest desire for honest and honourable reconciliation with the Gulf states and among the Arab states at large.

As His Majesty the King himself said recently, Jordan has not done anything to apologise for. Indeed, it was a magnanimous gesture on His Majesty's part to apologise for any "personal" harm he might have caused to any Arab leader.

We are most heartened by the strong signs of Arab reconciliation and hope with all sincerity and honesty that it would be in the right spirit and based on the understanding that the interests of the Arab Nation and the need to turn a totally new page in Arab history at this critical juncture are supreme and should not be held hostage to any individual consideration.

'Interdependence between peoples, cultures and religions should be the paradigm of the new millennium'

Following is the full text of an address delivered by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at an inter-faith consultations programme convened in Amman between Oct. 15 and 17:

Given that the theme of this meeting is "Richness in Diversity", I would like to begin by applauding the diversity of this assembly, and looking forward to the rich debate that undoubtedly lies ahead.

There can be no doubt that diversity in any field, by allowing the meeting of different perspectives, is more likely to generate creativity than bland uniformity. To my mind, this observation is almost self-evident; but there are those who would differ on this point. Before coming onto my main observations, I would therefore like briefly to examine the theoretical aspects of our theme.

Although his work has perhaps been devalued by association with the Marxist enterprise, I believe that the perspective of Hegel retains a large measure of validity. The encounter of thesis and antithesis, producing a synthesis of the soundest elements of both, was Hegel's model for the progress of history. It can apply to any study, however, John Stuart Mill, one of the founding fathers of a very different philosophy to Hegel's, argued that all human thought should be subject to constant challenge. He believed that this alone would prevent the stultification of once fresh insights into dogma. Edmund Burke, coming from yet another tradition, believed that society was engaged in a continuous process of evolution; and that its richness would be determined by its diversity. For Hegel, Mill and Burke alike, continuous creative exchange was the lifeblood of human endeavour. The cost of this is a willingness to lay aside the belief that one has a monopoly on the truth; to affirm that what may be appropriate to one set of circumstances is not always appropriate to another.

The synthesis of ideas that follows the accommodation of diverse inputs inevitably enjoys greater depth, greater richness, than an unchallenged thesis. To my mind, the proposition that diversity engenders richness has been made convincingly, at least in its theoretical aspect. What is the historical evidence?

I would like in this paper to test this proposition against the history of Islam.

Islam is not just a faith or a system of belief, a simple matter of doctrine or a compiled body of scripture: it is all these elements combined. In Islamic civilisation, religion has served as a fountainhead, providing

the rationale for its existence and accomplishments. The success of Islam as a world religion — about one-fifth of the world's population is now Muslim — testifies to its diversity, and indeed its capacity to accommodate diversity.

Although historically Islam began its mission among the Arabs, its assimilative power united peoples of a vast domain stretching from the borders of India and China to the countries of the Mediterranean basin. Islam became as rich and varied as its diverse world has become. Its very spread has ensured its diversity. As different peoples embraced the faith, it became evident that the Islamic community could not be regarded as a monolith.

"Islam has thus flourished on the basis of social and cultural pluralism, and the diversity of its followers. In contrast to the stratified societies outside Arabia, the proclaimed egalitarianism of the new faith ensured the equality of all Muslims, irrespective of ethnic origin or social class, enhanced by the bond of religious fellowship. Military and political dominance, combined with language and faith, soon gave way to cultural exchange, heralding a long and fruitful process of cultural cross-fertilisation to bring about a unique hybrid."

In various parts of its new domains, Islam had to adapt to local conditions, incorporating many of the cultural customs and traditions of indigenous societies, even while introducing radical changes to patterns of social modes. Religion remained the unifying, even dominant factor in their life, but there was no desire or attempt to obliterate their cultures.

Islam has thus flourished on the basis of social and cultural pluralism, and the diversity of its followers. In contrast to the stratified societies outside Arabia, the proclaimed egalitarianism of the new faith ensured the equality of all Muslims, irrespective of ethnic origin or social class, enhanced by the bond of religious fellowship. Military and political dominance, combined with language and faith, soon gave way to cultural exchange, heralding a long and fruitful process of cultural cross-fertilisation to bring about a unique hybrid.

The Islamic civilisation encompassed a dazzling fusion of diverse cultural traditions. What started out as an Islamic Arab state became a multi-ethnic Muslim order where differences in race and language ceased to count, and where a cosmopolitan civilisation flourished on the diversity of the contributions that freely poured into the Islamic pool: Arab and Persian, Greek and

Roman, Berber and Iberian, Turkish and Indian. Into the same pool, there poured freely and spontaneously contributions by the non-Muslim communities and peoples living under the banner of Islam.

Professor Bernard Lewis has characterised it thus: "Of the cohabitation of many peoples, faiths and cultures within the confines of the Islamic society a new civilisation was born, diverse in its origins and its creators, yet bearing on all its manifestations the characteristic of Arab Islam."

Lewis believes that eclecticism was the essence of Islam's originality. The process amounted to more than a simple mechanical juxtaposition of

have enriched the civilisation of mankind except in a pluralist culture, which became the essence of Islam.

The diversity of Islamic society was underpinned by divine injunction. The Holy Koran proclaims:

"O mankind, We have created you male and female, and have made you nations and tribes that you may know one another. Verily, the most honoured among you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous. Allah is all-knowing, all-aware." (49/13)

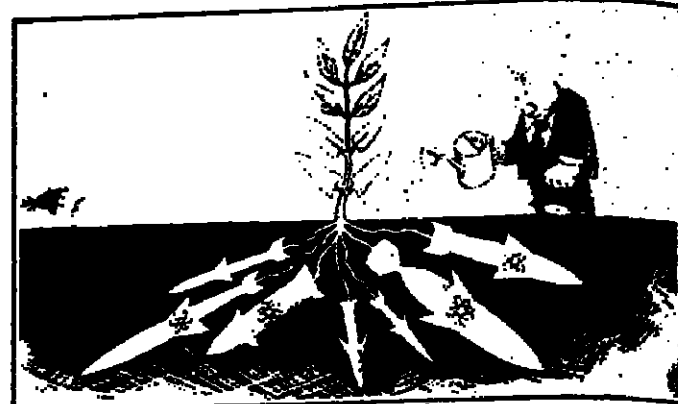
The people of the Book, the followers of the Abrahamic faiths, were accorded a privileged position. The Holy Koran calls on Muslims to:

"Contend not with the people of the Book except on the basis of that which is the best, but contend not at all with such of them as are unjust. Tell them: We believe in that which has been revealed to us, and that which has been revealed to you: Our God and your God is one; and to Him we submit." (29/37)

These guidelines, coupled with the vast conquests of Islam, convinced the Muslim that he enjoyed divine favour. Unlike the Jew or the Christian before him, he alone was in possession of the divine message in its perfect form. As such, the medieval Muslims declared Jews and Christians living amongst them "protected communities." They rarely felt the need to impose Islam by force. Like the Jew or Christian, the Muslim was satisfied that those who believed differently from him would burn in Hell. Unlike them, and the latter day Muslim radicals, the Muslim of the Middle Ages was content to be the dominant faith in a society of many faiths. Certain social and legal disabilities were imposed as a token of Islamic primacy while the religious, economic and intellectual freedom of non-Muslim monotheists was safeguarded. This enabled them to make immense contributions to Islamic civilisation.

The contributions of Christians and Jews to the development of the historical Muslim civilisation ranged from the arts and crafts to the most rarefied levels of scholarship and intellectual sophistication. From the earliest Islamic times, and until the end of the Ottoman period, the prized architecture and artistic work of the Muslim World, commonly branded as "Islamic" without a thought as to what the term truly implied, was frequently the work of Christians or Jews. For instance, the splendid ceramics which ornament the great mosques and other historical buildings of Ottoman Istanbul were the work not only of Muslim Turks, but of Christian Armenian potters and glaziers. Likewise, the prized Damascus glassware, and the equally prized Damascus copper ware, were "Islamic" were mostly produced by Christian glaziers and Jewish coppermiths. The descendants of these craftsmen, in the case of some families, continue to live in

(Continued on page 5)



The Week In Print Prepare for peace with war?

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

The visit to the Middle East by U.S. envoy Dennis Ross, the Middle East peace process, domestic affairs and other issues were given prominence by the Jordanian Arabic daily press in the past week.

There can be no good coming from U.S. envoy Dennis Ross's tour of the region or from the planned Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit here as long as Washington is unwilling to force Israel to comply with the requirements of a durable peace, said Al Ra'i daily in an editorial.

Ever since the creation of Israel in the midst of the Arab World, the United States has been providing it with military, political and economic means to help it dominate the Arab region through aggression and continued occupation of Palestine, said the daily.

Only Washington is able to force Israel's leaders to execute U.N. resolutions and withdraw forces from Arab land in exchange for a durable peace, said the daily.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily said Mr. Ross should have carried to Jordan and the other Arab countries a pledge from Washington that it would force Israel to withdraw from all the occupied lands.

Ahmad Al Mischeh said that despite the recent Israeli-Palestinian deal, the overall picture of the peace process is still unclear and the Arabs are worried as they see Israeli forces still occupy Arab land and refuse to withdraw except on Israel's conditions humiliating for the Arabs.

Even the Israeli-Palestinian deal does not provide a sound mechanism for its implementation and no progress has been achieved along the Syrian-Israeli and the Lebanese-Israeli tracks, said the writer.

Tareq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, said that the U.S.-Israeli allies have succeeded in breaching the Arab ranks by concluding the Palestinian-Israeli deal.

They also succeeded in concluding a common agenda for the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations, and they seem to have made all the gains, said the writer. By concluding its deal with the Palestinians, the Israelis were able to retain all the Jewish settlements with their guards, said the writer.

The Israelis are hoping to normalise their economic relations with the Arabs, through the Palestinians, and are also hoping to win peace with Syria without committing themselves to final withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Syria could be holding secret talks now with Israel, but the Arabs as a whole should accept peace with Israel only if it withdraws its forces from the Golan and southern Lebanon as well as the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, said Saleh Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour.

The writer said that the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks are part of the whole pattern of the peace process and therefore no peace should be reached with Israel by any Arab party before these tracks witness real progress.

While demanding that its relations be normalised with the Arabs, at once, Israel is not willing to give in to legitimate Arab demands, said Mohammad Kawash in Al Dustour.

The writer said that Israel has said it plans to withdraw from the occupied Arab lands in stages, to release detainees in stages and to withdraw from the Golan in stages, but is pressuring the Arabs for immediate normalisation of relations.

At the same time he said, Israel is going ahead with plans to build more and more settlements on Arab territory, thus proving determination to hold on to the land that it usurped from the Arabs in the 1967 war, added the writer.

Salameh Ekour, a writer in Sawt Al Shaab, said that while the American administration continues its pressure the Arab parties to reach agreement with Israel, it supplies the Israelis with modern technology to manufacture advanced rockets.

We can only express our

astonishment at Washington's behaviour at a time when the peace process is supposed to be continuing, aiming at a lasting settlement where no advanced weapons would be needed, said the writer.

Indeed, he said, it seems to the Arabs that Washington wants to ensure Israel's military domination of the Arab region before opening the way for the Jewish state to impose its hegemony on the Arab World's economic and trade affairs.

Fahd Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that the PLO Israeli deal signed on Sept. 13 did provide for the future of Jerusalem whose status, according to the agreement, would be discussed after two years of Palestinian self-rule.

Jerusalem is not like other cities: it is sacred to the Arabs as well as to the Jews and could not be traded for other lands or places, the writer said.

But, he noted, the Israelis are creating a dangerous situation by forcing the Arabs to leave the Holy City so that no demands can be made for its return. Only five per cent of the original Arab population now remain in Jerusalem as a result of Israeli measures, he added. Only through the Arab presence in Jerusalem can the Arab rights be safeguarded in the city, he concluded.

Discussing the election campaign in Al Dustour daily, columnist Mohammad Kawash wrote that the one-person one-vote law and the general developments in the region seem to have dampened public enthusiasm for the elections.

The writer said that he expected a poor turnout of voters, especially in Amman, despite the wide propaganda and media campaigns launched by various parties. One thing the government can do to breathe more life in the campaign and the elections themselves, is to lift all restrictions on holding rallies, suggested the writer.

Ahmad Dabbas said in Sawt Al Shaab that many voters are disappointed because they are not able to get their voting cards easily.

The writer said that the government ought to facilitate the distribution of cards and save them trouble, time and effort. Many voters, he said, have spent hours at the distribution centres trying to obtain the cards for their family members and many did not succeed, claimed the writer.

Echoing this view, Taher Al Udwan, in Al Dustour, said that many people found that the name of the head of the family was at one centre while the cards of the wife and children in different centres. The writer said that the government should gather all the registers of a certain district in one place and thus facilitate the distribution process.

Tareq Masarweh discussed the work of the Social Security Corporation, paying tribute to its staff for handling a major task for the beneficiaries. But the writer said that the current pension scheme was unfair to the beneficiaries who will not benefit from any kind of health scheme after the age of 60.

The writer said that the government ought to examine these points and should also allow those who had served in the public administration and resigned after 19 years of service to have their savings transferred to the Social Security Corporation to be taken into account for their future pension.

Taher Al Udwan, a columnist in Al Dustour, criticised the concerned authorities for not according equal services to different regions of the capital. Some of the streets are asphalted more than three times a year while others seldom see asphalt in 10 years, said Udwan.

The writer said that while certain districts witness constant congestion of public transport buses, others are completely deprived of bus services. In view of the coming winter season, he said, the municipality ought to take extra precautions and speed up street repairs in all districts, so that pedestrians and motorists can avoid possible accidents.

Tidbits from campaign '93

The 1993 elections campaign, serious as it appears, is not devoid of a light — sometimes funny — side. There are tidbits about news, views and comments about the campaign that will appear (hopefully) every day in this corner until it is all over on Nov. 8. Humour is intended in the column, in no way libel.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST: The recent reshuffle in the Royal Court has bearing on the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections in more ways than one. The move for Mohammad Adwan from the palace's Protocol Department to the Ministry of Tourism proves the point. Advertisements have appeared in Arabic papers congratulating Dr. Adwan's brother, Sheikh Sami Bin Affash, on the appointment. Pictures of the two brothers ran side by side in these ads, but some pundits thought the campaign overlooked an important point: No mention was made of the fact that the Adwan's third brother, Fayeze, was actually the one running for elections in the Balqa District.

SPORTSMANSHIP AND THE POLLS: Speaking of brothers and the same family, Mijhem Majed Al Adwan is running for parliamentary elections in the Fifth District of Amman while his brother, Sultan Majed Al Adwan, (who served in the previous Parliament) is also running for elections, only is doing it in the Balqa Governorate. At least they are not contesting the same seat, one might say. The issue, however, is not so simple. Every candidate in the Kingdom must have depended to a certain extent on the support of tribal affiliates in the district he wants to run in. And since the rule of thumb is to ensure that your family and your tribe are registered in your district, one of the two brothers must have been able to keep his relatives close to him, depriving the other of this basic family support. As if to compound the matter even further, the two brothers do actually think alike. One of Sultan's banners reads like this: "To provide the necessary support to sports unions and youth centres," Mijhem's, on the other hand, says: "Support the development of sports and youth." "We wish both of them could win if their victory would indeed serve the cause of youth," one pundit said. "But we can't be so happy if tribalism is the only tie in common between the two."

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Mansour Murad, Circassian candidate for the Third District, having won his much-coveted seat in 1989 under the banner of supporting Palestinian resistance and secular affiliations, must now think that the mood of his voters may have changed. This time around, his main theme is: "Only God will see to my success." Appropriate indeed, especially since he had voted for segregation of the sexes in schools and for the banning of alcohol, along with the Muslim Brotherhood movement, while serving as deputy in the 11th Parliament. And faithful to his 1993 image, he is running against two women.

MIFLEH; THE LIONHEART: An advertisement that appeared last week in support of a candidate in the Fifth District of Amman said the following: "The faithful youth of Swaleh support Sheikh Mifleh Al Lawzi 'the lion of the fifth district.'" Whether or not Sheikh Mifleh wants to be called a lion is open to question, since another ad by a supporter of his had this to say about him: "He has the heart of a lamb."

WORKING MORE DILIGENTLY: An evening paper which carries little snippets of news carried the following item: "The women of Irbid area against (Dr. Ahmad) Kofahi (who won the largest majority in Jordan during the '89 elections). It said that the election committee for women in Irbid has taken a decision not to vote for Muslim Brotherhood candidate Kofahi because he took a second wife after winning in 1989. Brotherhood sources, when asked about this item, refuted it and said that more women are now working for Kofahi and that he remains the women's No. 1 candidate. Paradoxical, huh?"

THOSE ELEMENTS: The Islamic Action Front's (IAF) newsletter on elections carried a column by a member of its executive committee in Amman's Third District, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Zmeili, which can be described as indicative of the ideas carried by their candidates. In his column, he attacked what he called as "elements that encourage obscenity among the public." "In his column (of which we publish a very brief summary) he said: 'Those who try to propagate obscene acts among the faithful are trying to transform virtue into vice and vice into something desirable to people who, after having repeatedly heard it and got accustomed to seeing it, would accept it as something normal in their lives.' Zmeili distributes those 'who try to encourage obscenity' in the following categories:

- Writers who use their promiscuous pens to spread obscenity and encourage people to practise it.
- Owners and publishers of magazines and newspapers which publish lascivious pictures and announcements and advertisements about lewd dancing and prostitution on their pages to stir lust and desire among the public.
- Owners of hotels and cafes who import obscenity and spread profanity by bringing in prostitutes from neighbouring countries.
- Those responsible for cheap and vulgar songs by singing, writing or composing it.
- Those who extend their support, through word or song on television or radio, and every sordid, cheap advertisement using women as a product for sale and enticement so that future generations would get used to indecency.
- Every official who condoned the propagation of obscenity and profanity within the limits of his responsibility.
- All indecent, cheap woman dressing revealingly (dressed and yet undressed).
- Husbands who allow their wives to go out in the street dressed and made up in a manner which would anger God.
- Every father who allows his daughter to appear without Islamic dress, nude, and mix with men.
- Those responsible for the culture and media which produce sleazy programmes for the nation and import the cultures of the East and West which distance our nation from our religion and our culture.
- Those responsible for the curricula which are used to bring up future generations on a diet of profanity, indecency and obscenity, by stuffing them with information which would encourage promiscuity and disregard for convention and manners.
- Every person responsible for a trashy festival in which people's honour is invaded in the name of culture and art.

"All those and others are bound to be tortured in their lives and after death in forms which only God can determine," Zmeili said in his article.

Nermeen Murad

Israel cuts ban on Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

But hours later, a joint communique was issued saying gradual and continual prisoner releases would begin next week. In the first stage, only prisoners under age 18 and over 50, and the sick and women would be released.

Both sides hoped the step would advance the peace process and prevent violence, the communique said.

Israeli delegation spokesman Ami Gluska said prisoners convicted of violent crimes would not be released even if they were in the specified categories.

He said negotiations on

further releases, or amnesties, as Palestinian delegation head Nabil Shaath termed them, would continue when talks resume next Monday.

Disagreements also emerged on the permanence of the Israeli army's withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

Palestinian negotiator Ahmad Khalidi said that Israel was apparently reserving the right to reintroduce troops into areas it vacates if it feels such a move necessary to ensure security.

"When (the accord) says withdrawal, it means you leave without coming back," he told the AP.

New millennium should shape future on the achievements of the past

(Continued from page 4)

Damascus and practise their ancestral trades. Meanwhile, in countries as far apart as Iraq, Morocco and Yemen, the magnificent and varied local manufacture of "Islamic" ornaments in silver and gold (were those of) Jewish silversmiths and goldsmiths.

Where the intellectual heritage of Islam is concerned, the influence of Greek thought was fundamental. This process began with simple translation of the classics of Greek knowledge and philosophy, but soon evolved to encompass creative works. The movement of translation began under the Umayyads, and involved translations either directly from the original Greek or from Syriac into Arabic.

The translators were usually non-Muslims; they were generally Christians or Jews, mainly Syrian, whose work enriched the foundations of Arab medical science. By the second century of Islam, a school for translation was set up in Baghdad with a library and a regular staff. Many of these translations which contributed to the classical Muslim achievements in various fields of thought, learning and science, were undertaken through the medium of the Syriac language by Jacobite or Nestorian Christian scholars from Syria and Iraq. These included Hunain Ibn Isahq, his son Isahq Ibn Hanan, Yahya Ibn Adi, and Qusta Ibn Luca. Their remarkable work was achieved under the patronage of a Muslim caliphate. Similarly, the groundwork for the original Muslim Arab contributions to medicine was laid by Nestorian Christian physicians in Iraq, most notably those of the Bakhtiyashu family: a dynasty of Christian court physicians serving the early Abbasid caliphs of Baghdad.

The influence ran both ways. The vocalised Masoretic Text of the Hebrew Bible, and the related masorah (critical and explanatory notes) were produced between the seventh and tenth centuries of the Common Era, by Jewish scholars working in Palestine or Iraq, in enjoyment of the freedoms guaranteed by the Muslim world order. What they produced, under Muslim rule, was nothing less than the text of the Hebrew Bible as we know it today.

The Mishnah and the Gemarah, which constitute the Jewish Talmud, were completed in Iraq or in Palestine before the advent of Islam. On the other hand, the development of a Jewish theology, in terms of formulating religious beliefs in the form of philosophical principles, was definitely an achievement of the Islamic period. In this connection, Lewis notes that "the influence flowed from Islam to Judaism, and not the other way round."

German aid

(Continued from page 1)

customs department with modern equipment and support base, he said.

Other agreements also signed on Thursday committed German assistance to Jordan for the current year into specific projects. These included DM 22 million (JD 9 million) in soft loans from the German development Bank to upgrade the greater Amman water network, and technical aid for training Jordanian personnel in water resources management and for stone preservation at the ancient city of Petra in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities.

The Amman water network project envisages replacing pipelines in the Jabal Amman, Jabal Luweideh, Jabal Hussein, Jabal Jofeh, downtown, Jabal Nasr, Hashemi and Ashrafieh districts of the capital.

The agreements were signed by Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz and German Ambassador Heinrich Reiners following several days of discussions here by a visiting German delegation headed by Winfried Fuchs, head of the North Africa and Middle East department of the Ministry of Economic Cooperation.

Dr. Fariz and Mr. Fuchs signed the minutes of the meetings which agreed on the 1994 assistance for Jordan.

The German delegation was visiting Petra Friday and was scheduled to leave Jordan early Saturday.

The Ministry of Planning said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Germany has been extending an annual technical aid of DM 15 million (JD 6.2 million) to help Jordan implement development projects, particularly in agriculture, water, health and institution building.

The 1993 aid from Germany to Jordan is almost the same as the 1992 figure and the Kingdom remains one of the largest recipients of German assistance in per capita terms, Mr. Meyers said.

Germany, a regular contributor of assistance to Jordan, extended DM 350 million over and above its regular aid to help the Kingdom offset the negative economic repercussions of the Gulf crisis.

Asked whether Germany was planning any assistance to Jordan to help it interact with regional economic development as part of the Middle East peace process, Mr. Meyers said he was aware of such considerations.

Constantinople, his voice would probably have been silenced without much ceremony. The writing of history being a good indicator of attitudes, it is worth noting the history of Islam has been written by Christian Arab as well as by Muslim scholars. The Christian Arabic historical literature produced under Islam is not, by and large, the sorrowful literature of plaintive communities, bemoaning their lot as captives to an alien and hostile order. Rather, it

tion in which he and his community participated. His work, written in Arabic, but in the Syriac script, was clearly intended for Christians, and not for Muslims to read.

Another example is the Maronite historian, Patriarch Istifan A Duwayhi (d. 1704), whose church, entitled "Tarikh al-Muslimin" originally, entitled "Tarikh al-Muslamin" presents the history of his Christian community as part and parcel to the annals of Islam. Like Bahbreus, he wrote his chronicle in the

"A new thinking, a fresh paradigm, will be needed if we are to enter the new millennium safely. Such a paradigm would see the inter-connections and interdependence between peoples, cultures and religions, while respecting their diversity. It would seek to develop the vision to identify and build upon common fundamentals, without prejudicing the uniqueness of each tradition. It must strive for the enriched unity that accompanies an accommodation of diversity, and not the sterile uniformity of an imposed hegemony."

is the literature of proud communities, confident of their standing in a society which they, no less than the Muslims, considered their own. Among the Christian Arab historians of Islam before modern times, prime examples include the thirteenth century Jacobite Christian Abu Al Faraj Ibn Al Ibr (the famed Barhebraeus), whose historical compendium, "Mukhtasar tarikh al duwal," places the history of his own Christian church within the context of the Muslim civilisa-

Syriac script, with which only Christians were normally familiar. It must be pointed out that only Christians who felt fully integrated in Muslim society could have conceived of their own Christian communities within the Islamic historical context.

At no stage in the long history of Islam has the community of Muslims been homogeneous except in terms of its religious allegiance. While its political structure became fractured in due course, the Christ-

ians and the Jews remained an integral part of its social and cultural make-up. So much so that the last all-encompassing Muslim domain, namely the Ottoman Empire developed the Millet system for their protection and well-being. The Jews were governed by the Halakabashi while the Christians had their own Patriarchate whose functions were to administer the civil and religious affairs of their respective communities.

By the middle of the 18th century, the Muslim World began a process of reassessment and self-examination. The cause was its own decline and the emerging power and might of Europe. European encroachment and domination of Islamic lands sharpened the intellect of Muslim scholars engaged in a movement of renewal to supplement the resistance against Europe. The immediate result of the encounter was a religious reform movement accompanied by wholesale borrowing and adoption of European models and methods. The process received religious sanction, and by the beginning of this century Muslim societies had been transformed into modern political communities where social, cultural and religious barriers were removed.

With the emergence of the nation state and public acknowledgment of a concept of common citizenship, the individual had become a citizen, enjoying equal rights, irrespective of his religious faith or ethnicity. It has been the kind of pluralism that my own Hashemite forebears committed themselves. It has been our conviction that cultural diversity and political pluralism can ensure the development of a civic society, and

contain the contain of exclusive ideology whether of the religious or the ethnic variety.

Pluralism and richness were thus the cornerstone of the Muslim world order. Its diversity was the fountainhead of its success. By harnessing the diverse cultural and religious traditions of the civilisations it encountered, Islam was able to make and to influence great progress in all fields of human endeavour. The giant steps of Islam's golden age would not have been possible without this respect and tolerance for that which was different, that which was other.

Here, perhaps, lies a key for the modern age. We have, in the past few years, witnessed several alarming manifestations of racial and religious intolerance and violence throughout our world. A new thinking, a fresh paradigm, will be needed if we are to enter the new millennium safely. Such a paradigm would see the inter-connections and inter-dependence between peoples, cultures and religions, while respecting their diversity. It would seek to develop the vision to identify and build upon common fundamentals, without prejudicing the uniqueness of each tradition. It must strive for the enriched unity that accompanies an accommodation of diversity, and not the sterile uniformity of an imposed hegemony. We should be aware of the infinite advancements made possible by our unprecedented access to the heritage of all cultures of the times — as well as the dangers of ignoring or excluding them. For in articulating a new paradigm for the future, we would do well to consider just what it was that made possible the achievements of the past.

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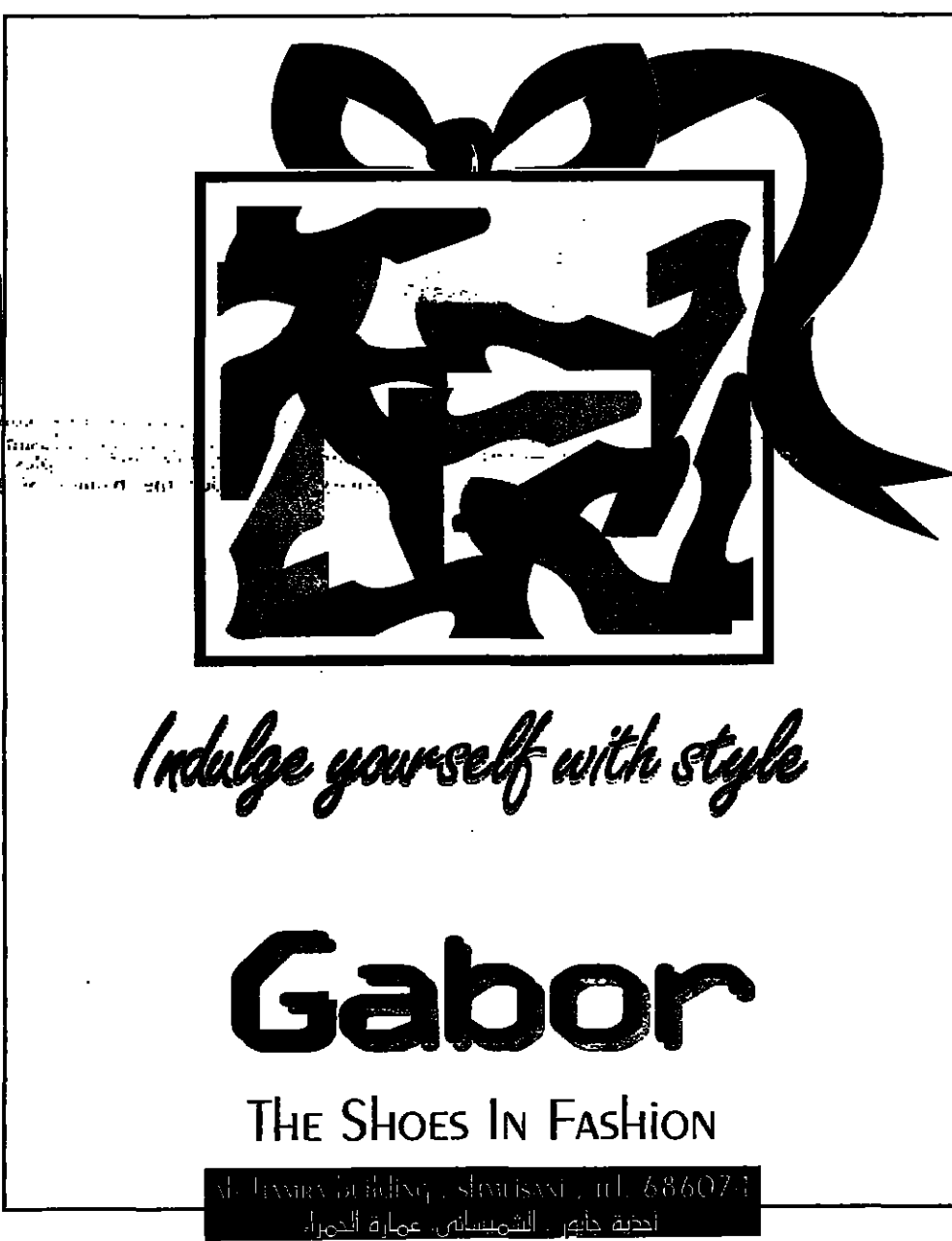
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FORTE GRAND
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European stock markets buoyed by Bundesbank

LONDON (AFP) — European stock markets were buoyed Friday by the cut in German interest rates ordered Thursday by the Bundesbank, and stocks set new records in London, Paris and Frankfurt.

On the London exchange, prices were boosted by hopes for lower British rates in the wake of the German move, and the Footsie 100-share index rose by 10.7 points or 0.3 per cent on the day to finish at 3,199 points, an all-time closing high. A few minutes earlier, the indicator stood at a record high of 3,199.2 points. Gilt were up by as much as a third of a point.

Share volume totalled £655.2 million against £745 million on Thursday.

It was the same story in Paris, as stocks rose to a record high in the wake of German

and French interest rate reductions. Major French banks lowered their prime rates Friday afternoon by 0.25 per cent after the Bank of France reduced key rates in the morning.

On the Paris Bourse, the CAC 40 index surged by 1.46 per cent on the day to an all-time closing high of 2,231.86 points. The previous closing high came on Aug. 31, at 2,216.49. Friday was settlement day, but the normal profit-taking did not materialise, dealers said.

They added that the bourse would certainly rise to new highs next week.

The market was very active with volume of more than six billion francs on the monthly settlement market.

In Frankfurt, the stock market hailed the Bundesbank's

Thursday move in active trading, taking the DAX index up by 31.48 points on the day to 2,066.17 — a new record closing high. The Commerzbank indicator ended at 1,170.40, up 29.40 points.

In addition to lower interest rates, the dollar's firmness also helped the market, dealers said. "There has never been so much liquidity on the market," said one CSFB Effektebank operator.

In Madrid, the stock market's general indicator rose 5.10 points or 1.67 per cent on the day to end at 3,102.8, a new closing high for the year so far. Operators said the market was pleased with the Bank of Spain's decision to lower its key interest rate by a quarter-point to 9.25 per cent.

The Bank of France decided Friday to follow the German

Bundesbank's signal for a shift to lower short-term interest rates — but without endangering the French franc's stability.

Friday morning, the French central bank cut its intervention rate by 0.3 per cent to 6.45 per cent as of next Tuesday as a reflection of "the general downtrend of rates in Europe

and with an eye on the objective of the franc's internal and external stability," it said.

The bank also lowered its five-to-ten-day securities repurchase rate from 7.75 to 7.25 per cent.

Credit Lyonnais bank economist Jean-Paul Berbeze

Sudan devalues pound

KHARTOUM (AFP) — The Sudanese pound was devalued by about 75 per cent Friday with the announcement of a new official rate of 300 to a dollar, against the present 171.7.

The devaluation, the second in five months, is to become effective Saturday. It was announced by Omer Taha Abu Samra, chairman of a committee responsible for setting the currency's rate against the dollar.

The new rate will apply to transactions involving commercial banks and is aimed at

encouraging repatriation of money made abroad by emigrants from Sudan. A different rate, 215 pounds to the dollar, has been set for exports to boost them. The dollar had been fetching more than 350 pounds on the black market the last few weeks.

The pound's rate against the main foreign currencies will be set daily by a consortium of commercial banks.

Last week, the Bank of Sudan announced some new measures to cut inflation and black market dealing. It re-established a requirement to declare foreign currencies when

arriving in Sudan and leaving the country, and gave three weeks to foreign exchange holders to deposit such currencies in certain bank accounts or exchange it at the bank.

But chief of state, General Omar Al Bashir said Wednesday that such measures "do not mean an abandonment of the policy of economic liberalisation (undertaken two years ago), but rather a halt to parasitic activities."

Sudan's chronic shortage of foreign exchange causes large supply difficulties, including frequent gasoline (petrol) shortages.

Belgium urged to raise taxes to pay social security deficit

BRUSSELS (AFP) — An official committee of Belgian economists chaired by central banker Fons Verplaetse has urged the government to raise taxes in a bid to finance its chronic social security deficits.

The recommendation was made in a report presented to Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene by Mr. Verplaetse, who is governor of the National Bank of Belgium.

It recommended higher indirect taxes, plus higher taxes on investment income, real estate and energy consumption.

The committee was appointed to identify ways of restoring currency confidence, reducing Belgium's massive public debt and social security deficit, and turning around the rising rate of unemployment.

The report is expected to become a central element in Mr. Dehaene's efforts, announced last July, to negotiate a social pact between government, employers and trade unions aimed at restoring confidence in the Belgian economy.

This would include lowering the cost of labour and making companies more competitive so that they will become more profitable and create new jobs.

Specifically, the "Verplaetse report" calls for social security spending to be pegged to the rate of real economic growth over the past 10 years.

It shifts part of the burden of financing this spending from employers to individuals through:

- A harmonised 15 per cent tax on all local investments by residents of the European Community. The present tax for Belgian citizens is 10 per cent.
- Higher indirect taxes which do not exceed average levels charged in Germany, France, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.
- An energy tax along the lines of a tax proposed by the European Commission. It would include a tax on carbon dioxide emissions.
- On real estate except primary residences.

The report recommends that real pay levels be frozen, but that the indexation of salaries to inflation be maintained.

It is expected to be the centre of political debate in coming days. Its immediate result was a strengthening of the Belgian franc, which has lost six per cent against the Deutsche mark since July.

Belgian social charges on

business, among the highest in the EC, have been blamed for hurting the export competitiveness of local firms and their ability to create new jobs.

Currently 100 francs of salary currently paid by an employer, 47 goes to the worker, 40.5 is deducted for social security and 12.5 goes in taxes.

Meanwhile, unemployment is approaching 14 per cent, with nearly 500,000 people out of work in a country whose population is just 10 million. Some 2.4 million people receive social security payments from the state.

The result has been a growing social security deficit which has contributed to national budget deficit which last year was nearly seven per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

The public debt currently stands at more than 120 per cent of GDP, absorbing about 30 per cent of the annual state budget.

This has left Belgium far short of meeting two central criteria for joining a European Community currency (EC) union — a budget deficit of no more than three per cent of GDP, and public debt falling towards 60 per cent of GDP.

90% of big Japanese companies cut back hiring, survey says

TOKYO (Agencies) — More than 90 per cent of major Japanese companies are recruiting fewer college graduates this year, and 26 per cent are cutting hiring by half or more, a survey has said.

The survey by the financial daily Nihon Keizai Shimbun provides some of the strongest evidence yet of the plight faced by new graduates in Japan as companies cope with plunging profits.

Japanese firms traditionally try to avoid layoffs, so they usually cut back on hiring new employees and offer early retirement plans when they find themselves with too many workers.

The Nihon Keizai said 198 of the 216 companies it surveyed, or 92 per cent, plan to hire fewer university graduates to start in spring 1994 than they did for spring 1993. Fifty-six, or 26 per cent, will cut the number of new hires by half or more, the survey said.

Japanese companies gener-

ally do all their yearly hiring in one batch, selecting a group of students in the fall. The students graduate the following March and begin work in April.

Among major companies, Sony Corp. said it will hire 400 people, down from 740 last year, and Fujitsu Ltd. will cut new hires from 1,200 to about 300.

Japanese companies that hired and invested heavily in the boom years of the late 1980s are now finding themselves with too much capacity and unneeded employees because of the nation's economic slump.

However, corporate bankruptcies in Japan from April to September fell 0.6 per cent from the same period last year to 6,913, marking the first drop in six half-year periods, Teikoku Data Bank Ltd. has said.

The number of failures, defined as those with liabilities of at least 10 million yen (\$93,500), also represented a 7.7 per cent decline from the

previous half-year period, the private credit research agency said.

The total liabilities from bankruptcies in the six months to September stood at 2.93 trillion yen, down 18.3 per cent from the previous fiscal year's first half, marking a year-on-year drop of three straight half-year periods, it said.

Agency officials attributed the declines in both the number of cases and the amount of liabilities to a sharp 28 per cent fall what is called a "bubble type" business failure stemming from excessive investment or borrowing.

Also, the average debt amount per case fell to 424 million yen, down from 515 million yen a year earlier. But the amount was the third biggest on record for a first half-year period, the agency said.

The number of bankruptcies with liabilities of at least one billion yen declined from 477 a year earlier to 468, and those with five billion yen or more also fell from 47 to 93.

Swedish government proposes employment tax cuts to encourage hiring

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — The Swedish government has proposed a 15 percentage point cut in new employment tax for 1994 and a six-month extension on youth training placements in a bid to stimulate employment.

The goal of the proposals, presented to parliament by Labour Minister Boerje Hoernlund, is to reduce unemployment to around six or seven per cent by the end of the decade.

Unemployment in Sweden

stood at 8.7 per cent in September, according to the Swedish Central Bureau of Statistics.

The government hopes that the new measures will make it more attractive for companies to recruit new employees, translating into at least 20,000 new jobs during 1994, Swedish Finance Minister Anne Wibble said.

The government also intends to invest 243 million kronor (\$30.3 million) to decrease long-term unemployment.

Despite the new measures,

the government expects unemployment to increase in the near future. During 1993, an unemployment level of around eight per cent is anticipated, and after a climb to 8.4 per cent in 1994 it will dip to just under eight per cent in 1995.

"The government has never before invested so much in reducing unemployment. Most important right now are our long-term measures to get growth moving and create new jobs," Mr. Hoernlund said.

The option to extend the

present six-month free-of-charge period on youth training placements was also presented to parliament.

Employers will now pay a 1,000 kronor (\$125) fee for the first six months, and 3,000 kronor (\$375) for the second six months if the employer promises the employee a permanent position.

In general terms, the Swedish economy has hit rock bottom and is now on the upswing, the Finance Ministry said in its fall prognoses and economic

proposals to parliament.

Gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to decrease this year by three per cent, but a two per cent increase can be expected in 1994 and a three per cent climb in 1995, Ms. Wibble said.

According to the finance ministry's prognoses, growth will decrease by 2.8 per cent in 1993 but then climb 1.9 per cent in 1994 and 2.9 per cent in 1995.

Industrial production is expected to rise 1.5 per cent in

1993 and then surge nine per cent in 1994 and six per cent in 1995.

Inflation can be expected to rise 4.6 per cent this year, while it will increase only 2.6 per cent in 1994 and 2.9 per cent in 1995.

The government also announced it planned to cut an additional 20 billion kronor (\$2.5 billion) off the budget deficit. By 1998 the deficit will have been cut by 81 billion kronor (\$10.1 billion), the government predicted.

Deutsche Aerospace to slash workforce, shut six plants

BONN (R) — Daimler-Benz aerospace unit Deutsche Aerospace (DASA) has said it would cut 16,000 jobs and shut six plants over the next three years due to worldwide recession and an airline industry crisis.

Management board chairman Juergen Strempf told journalists in Munich DASA would axe 10,300 jobs by the end of 1996 in addition to nearly 6,000 cuts already under way. DASA employs around 80,000 people.

The job cuts and plant closures would save the company around 1.5 billion marks (\$910.1 million) a year and pull it back into profit by 1995. DASA had to act "to maintain the competitive ability of the German aerospace industry in the international market."

"This calls for the courage to take unpopular decisions such as job reductions and the closing down of sites," Mr. Strempf said.

The job cuts will mainly affect DASA's aviation and defence operations. In the civil aviation division, 6,500 of the 44,600 employees will lose their jobs, as will 2,500 of the 11,600 defence and civil systems workers.

"The company will dispense with those activities which are of no strategic importance to its core businesses," Mr.

Strempf said. "It will adapt its aviation, defence and civil systems areas to market conditions."

DASA would invest 1.5 billion marks (\$910.1 million) between now and 1998 in its defence and civil systems divisions, he said. But two of the company's German Airbus plants — at Lemwerden and Munich-Neubiberg — will close by 1996.

He said production in Europe was being made uneconomical by high labour costs. DASA's defence division was suffering because European governments are placing fewer orders and because of a lack of coordination over arms exports regulations.

Aerospace and defence companies have been hit since the end of the cold war by shrinking defence budgets as military planners review strategies under pressure from cash-strapped Western governments.

Mr. Strempf said he expected the former Soviet Union to become a significant competitor in the airline and space industries and even said it entering into strategic alliances with the U.S.

Apart from "disastrous" profits in the airline industry, DASA faced increased competition from the U.S. and Japan.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY OCTOBER 23, 1993
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Sun enters Scorpio and you are imbued with a fresh new plan of attack on whatever may have been baffling you up to this point. Your mental ingenuity and manual dexterity will be put to the test.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Matters at home can cause you to feel you are being too taken for granted so don't expect much praise today but tonight tensions then do lift.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) It seems difficult to put your plans across during the daytime in communications and short jaunts but later you see how to improve basic conditions.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Think over what you can do to improve your financial well-being without taking any chances at the moment, then tonight you find answers in periodicals.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think about the personal conditions you would like to have and go after them with confidence but tonight make a point to avoid extravagance.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Don't try to get close companions and an outside contact together during the day while tonight you find you can see and enjoy a very good friend.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider the various intimate wishes you have and think of ways in the days ahead to make them a part of your life while tonight finds you able to express your affections.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is the moment to use care in whatever you do of a world or a civic nature and above all take no chances today with your credit worthiness.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You find it difficult today to put into effect the ideas which you feel can be of the greatest help and assistance to you, tonight avoid public pleasures.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be most cautious and careful in handling any promises you have made for any mischief could boomerang against your best interests.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have a partner now with whom you would like to get along better but that person is stepped in own anxieties and can be a disappointment to you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Whatever you have in mind about getting work done or being of service to others can be hard to effectuate today but tonight an outsider helps.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Having a good time this day will not be all it has been anticipated so don't be upset if some obstacles arise, tonight duties can be well handled.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

6-6 HARRIS

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PLITO

NITLE

FREBLY

GLOANS

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "O O O O O O O O O O"

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: HAVOC MINUS BRUTAL STYMIE

Answer: A loud cry that's quiet to start with — "SH-OUT"

Peanuts

Andy Capp

Mutt'n'Jeff

THE Daily Crossword by Eugene Puffenberger

ACROSS

- Whisker ending
- Moslem title
- Concerning
- Plenipotentiary
- Company
- Cash the — of the king
- Toolbox item
- Harvested snow
- Quality
- Battering cheer
- Window
- Hunters
- Small brooks
- Moslem ruler
- like
- Power agency
- Turkish governors
- Desk items
- Skin growth
- Ear, prof.
- in the head
- Title of films
- Gewgaws
- Completed
- Use the bus
- Baldingish
- Holsteins' beloved
- Amatory
- Ring
- "It must be me — play on"
- Raison d'—
- Beneath
- Oklahoma city
- Regime
- 22 New-forgo piece
- Plutocrat
- man with "seven wives"
- "Land —"
- Shakespeare
- Elms, the collector
- House, Ind.
- Filled completely
- Part of RSVP
- Upbeat
- 68 Gervase
- Use line wine
- 40 Opera singer: Frances
- Urges

DOWN

- Sound of singhalee
- about (close to)
- English composer
- Makes like new
- Dipped water from a boat
- Use line wine
- Urges
- Fairly tale beginning
- 10' — after the fire — small voice
- "The — from heaven"
- Transport
- Before: prof.
- Pigment
- 22 New-forgo piece
- Plutocrat
- man with "seven wives"
- "Land —"
- Shakespeare
- Elms, the collector
- House, Ind.
- Filled completely
- Part of RSVP
- Upbeat
- 68 Gervase
- Use line wine
- 40 Opera singer: Frances
- Urges

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. WHISKER, 2. MOSLEM, 3. CONCERNING, 4. PLENIPOTENTIARY, 5. COMPANY, 6. CASH THE — OF THE KING, 7. TOOLBOX ITEM, 8. HARVESTED SNOW, 9. QUALITY, 10. BATTERING CHEER, 11. WINDOW, 12. HUNTERS, 13. SMALL BROOKS, 14. MOSLEM RULER, 15. — LIKE, 16. POWER AGENCY, 17. TURKISH, 18. GOVERNORS, 19. DESK ITEMS, 20. SKIN GROWTH, 21. EAR, PROF., 22. — IN THE HEAD, 23. TITLE OF FILMS, 24. GEWGAWS, 25. COMPLETED, 26. USE THE BUS, 27. BALDINGISH, 28. HOLSTEINS' BELOVED, 29. AMATORY, 30. RING, 31. "IT MUST BE ME — PLAY ON", 32. RAISON D'—, 33. BENEATH, 34. OKLAHOMA CITY, 35. REGIME, 36. 22 NEW-FORGOPiece, 37. PLUTOCRAT, 38. — MAN WITH "SEVEN WIVES", 39. "LAND —", 40. SHAKESPEARE, 41. ELMS, THE COLLECTOR, 42. — HOUSE, IND., 43. FILLED COMPLETELY, 44. PART OF RSVP, 45. UPBEAT, 46. 68 GERVAISE, 47. USE LINE WINE, 48. 40 OPERA SINGER: FRANCES, 49. URGES.

DOWN: 1. SOUND OF SINGHALEE, 2. — ABOUT (CLOSE TO), 3. ENGLISH COMPOSER, 4. MAKES LIKE NEW, 5. DIPPED WATER FROM A BOAT, 6. USE LINE WINE, 7. URGES, 8. FAIRLY TALE BEGINNING, 9. 10' — AFTER THE FIRE — SMALL VOICE, 10. "THE — FROM HEAVEN", 11. TRANSPORT, 12. BEFORE: PROF., 13. PIGMENT, 14. 22 NEW-FORGOPiece, 15. PLUTOCRAT, 16. — MAN WITH "SEVEN WIVES", 17. "LAND —", 18. SHAKESPEARE, 19. ELMS, THE COLLECTOR, 20. — HOUSE, IND., 21. FILLED COMPLETELY, 22. PART OF RSVP, 23. UPBEAT, 24. 68 GERVAISE, 25. USE LINE WINE, 26. 40 OPERA SINGER: FRANCES, 27. URGES.

Bosnian Serbs, rebel Muslims in Bihac sign peace accord

BELGRADE (AFP) — Bosnian Serbs and the Muslim leader of Bihac in northwest Bosnia, Fikret Abdic, have signed a peace agreement, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic said here Friday.

"Half of the territory of the former Bosnia-Herzegovina is today at peace," Mr. Milosevic said after a two-hour meeting with Mr. Abdic and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic at the Serbian president's residence.

"I hope that we will not have to wait too long for a just peace settlement in the whole of the former Bosnia," Mr. Milosevic added.

Mr. Abdic last month proclaimed the Muslim enclave of Bihac in northwestern Bosnia an autonomous region, in open defiance of the Muslim President of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Alija Izetbegovic.

The Bihac rebellion, the first serious breach in the Muslim camp, has served further to weaken the position of Mr. Izetbegovic, who continues to hold out against a plan for Bosnia's partition along ethnic lines.

Mr. Milosevic and Mr. Karadzic last week said the last Geneva peace plan worked out by international mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg should be brought back for discussion.

The Owen-Stoltenberg plan, which was approved by Bosnia's Serbs and Croats, has been rejected by Mr. Izetbegovic. Mr. Abdic has backed the plan.

Fighting between forces loyal to Mr. Izetbegovic and the Bihac rebels has left about a dozen people dead in Bosnia.

Meanwhile an exchange of Bosnian Croat and Muslim prisoners in the southern town of Mostar was suspended after Red Cross convoys sent to evacuate them were prevented from moving through the town, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) office in Sarajevo said Friday.

About 150 prisoners were to have been taken out Thursday, already a day later than originally scheduled.

Negotiations to find a solution are supposed to take place in the Croatian capital Zagreb Saturday, a Red Cross spokesman said.

The first phase of the Croat-Muslim swap in Bosnia-Herzegovina Tuesday saw 1,081 prisoners freed.

In Zagreb, a spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said a convoy taking 75 tonnes of food and medicine to the Muslim enclave of Maglaj had been stopped 10 kilometres (six

miles) short of its destination in Croat-held territory.

UNHCR official Alekma Lisinski said demonstrators and members of the Croat HVO militia had stopped the trucks at Ozimica. The convoy left Zagreb Thursday and when just 20 kilometres (12 miles) from Maglaj was halted by Serb forces at Teslic and forced to spend the night there, Lisinski said.

U.N. Protection Force spokesman Bill Aikman reported here that the British military contingent at Gornji Vakuf in central Bosnia had to evacuate personnel from their base when it got caught in crossfire Thursday.

Croat forces opened up with artillery against Bosnian army lines, and tanks and infantry joined in a six-hour battle. The British evacuated 68 people, including civilian staff, unarmoured U.N. observers and UNHCR workers, though the British soldiers stayed put, Col. Aikman said.

He added that the fighting had made no major changes to the front line.

In a separate development, the far-right opposition Radical Serbian Party (SRS) has presented a no-confidence motion in parliament against the rump Yugoslav government, Tanjug News Agency said Friday.

SRS leader Vojislav Seselj, a rival of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, put forth the motion in the parliament of Serbia and Montenegro Thursday, Tanjug said.

"The government has demonstrated, at the highest levels, its inability to function, and could, if it continues in this manner, harm national and state interests," the motion read.

Tanjug said the move by the SRS, which is also ultra-nationalist, was motivated mainly by an article in the Yugoslav constitution which prevents the president from dissolving the federal parliament while censure motions are under debate.

Late last month the SRS, which is one of but not the main opposition party in Serbia, presented a motion of no-confidence against the Serbian government. After a stormy but inconclusive debate on the motion, Mr. Milosevic reacted this past Wednesday by dissolving the Serbian parliament, citing "paralysis of the decision-making process."

He also called parliamentary elections in Serbia for Dec. 19. Serbia's main opposition party — the Serbian Renewal Movement led by the writer Vuk Draskovic — has said it will boycott the elections.

Angolan city needs aid to stem starvation

MENONGUE, Angola (R) — U.N. mercy flights have resumed to the Angolan city of Menongue where 5,000 people have died in a nine-month rebel siege, but countless more could perish if the food aid stops.

Aid workers say flights carrying tonnes of medicine and food over the past two weeks

have averted a disaster on the scale of Cuito, where 30,000 people died from hunger, wounds and disease during a similar siege by UNITA rebels.

Military and church sources say Menongue is still surrounded and thousands more civilians could die if the rebels tighten their grip and prevent the U.N. World Food Prog-

ramme from flying in.

"If the flights stop thousands will die. Menongue's future is uncertain. We are completely dependent on outside aid," local Bishop Jose De Queiroz Alves told Reuters. "There would have been a catastrophe if the aid flights had not resumed," he added. "People here have no more food stocks,

they cannot cultivate fields because of land mines."

He estimated at least 5,000 people had died in the siege which began in January, cutting access to the town of 100,000. Menongue is the capital and the only city of southern Cuando Cubango province still in government hands.

Haiti starts feeling the pinch of oil embargo

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) — Haiti's last major gas retailer ordered its pumps shut Friday to comply with a U.N.-imposed oil embargo aimed at forcing the military to let the country's exiled president return.

Prime Minister Robert Malval said he rejected a request by the armed forces to intervene. "We told the army it was none of the government's business" because it does not own the gas, Mr. Malval told the Associated Press.

Two of three foreign-owned oil companies — Shell and Esso — stopped distributing gasoline Thursday, and their gas stations were deserted Friday. The third company, Texaco, ordered its pumps shut Friday morning.

Shell said it was respecting the embargo aimed at pressuring the military regime to let exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide return. Esso cited security threats to the company.

The immediate effect of the embargo was inconvenience. Long lines of cars snaked for more than a block at some gas stations Friday.

But the shortage could grind down the economy, make life difficult for Haitians and hamper operations of the country's notoriously repressive army and police.

Soldiers carrying guns ordered a Texaco station that had shut down in the late afternoon to stay open.

Texaco has also pledged to abide by the embargo, but it wasn't immediately clear if that meant it would cease sales of its existing supplies at all of its stations in Haiti.

Mr. Malval, speaking this morning on NBC's Today show from Port-Au-Prince, said talks with the army on breaking the stalemate could show some results within two or three days.

"I know that the sanctions carry a heavy burden for all of us here. But the message behind the sanctions is that we will not back away. We must be on the way to democracy," Mr. Malval said.

When asked whether he feared for his life, Mr. Malval said, "we all have our life on the line. We know we have a job to do."

On Thursday, prominent Aristide supporter Samuel Milord, a congressman, was reported missing. His family told Radio Tropic FM he was kidnapped, but the president of the lower chamber of parliament, Antoine Joseph, said Mr. Milord was in hiding because of death threats.

Clinton admits trouble with foreign policy

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton has admitted he has had trouble with foreign policy but said the post-cold war era presents problems as challenging as those faced in the aftermath of World War II.

"In this struggle to find our way in the world, there are those who have said, well, I haven't done everything right, and to that I plead guilty," Mr. Clinton told a Democratic fundraiser.

"But I'll tell you one thing, in this administration we show up for work every day with our sleeves rolled up, and with the determination to face the challenges before us," he said.

Mr. Clinton and his foreign policy team of Secretary of State Warren Christopher and

Defence Secretary Les Aspin have faced withering criticism in recent weeks over U.S. policies for Somalia, Haiti and Bosnia.

The problems in Somalia and Haiti have raised doubts about whether Mr. Clinton will be able to follow through on a pledge to contribute 25,000 troops to an international peacekeeping mission in Bosnia.

Many members of Congress, including some from his own Democratic Party, have expressed serious doubts about Mr. Clinton's stewardship of U.S. foreign policy, and the president this week fended off a challenge from Senate Republican leader Bob Dole to restrict his military options in Haiti.

New NATO chief urges closer ties with East

MONS, Belgium (AFP) — U.S. General George Joulwan took over Friday as supreme commander of NATO forces and called for closer cooperation with the alliance's former Eastern Bloc enemies.

Gen. Joulwan, formerly commander of the U.S. Southern Command in Panama, replaced Gen. John Shalikashvili, who stepped down after 16 months here to become chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The new allied chief told a news conference at NATO military headquarters that it was essential for the 16-member North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to reach the eastward.

But Gen. Joulwan, 53, sidestepped questions on NATO membership for former Soviet satellites and the sticky question of security guarantees.

"The actual timetable for all of that still needs to be decided," he said. "But what we need is a community of stable and prosperous nations working in concert with one another for true stability and security throughout all of Europe."

Gen. Shalikashvili, 57, said enlargement of the 16-member alliance, formed in 1949 as a bulwark against the Soviet threat, "was not a question of whether but a question of when."

He hailed a U.S. plan presented to NATO defence ministers this week for a series of partnership agreements between the alliance and other European states as a precondition but no guarantee of membership.

The plan provides for beefed-up cooperation in peacekeeping planning, training and other activities and would require a large outlay of NATO resources.

But Gen. Shalikashvili said

he was confident that the Jan. 10 NATO summit in Brussels would approve the idea "with the realisation this is something worth paying for."

On prospects for raising a 50,000-strong NATO force to implement an eventual peace plan in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Gen. Joulwan said it would have to have a clear mandate and objectives.

Gen. Shalikashvili acknowledged that nations were hesitant to contribute to the force, which is supposed to comprise up to 25,000 Americans.

But he said they would be more willing to step forward once they had evidence that a peace plan was signed and respected on the local as well as national levels.

Gen. Shalikashvili also moved to reassure Washington's European partners that the United States would retain a strong presence on the continent despite plans to slim down its forces.

He said the Clinton administration was "clear about the importance of retaining a strong forward presence in Europe. I will do my very best to ensure that there are combat ready and supported forces stationed in Europe."

Both generals agreed on the need for a large NATO role for France, which dropped out of the alliance's integrated military command in 1966.

Gen. Shalikashvili welcomed French moves to help the alliance partners enforce a no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina and patrol the Adriatic Sea to enforce an embargo on the Serbs.

"I am very hopeful that as we move ahead this relationship will only get stronger and I would applaud the day when we would be able to have France as a full member of the military structure," he said.

Burundi president killed in coup

NAIROBI (AFP) — Burundi's President Melchior Ndadaye has been killed by army rebels who staged a coup in Bujumbura, Burundi Health Minister Jean Minani confirmed Friday.

"The dictators killed Ndadaye," Mr. Minani, who was in the neighbouring Rwandan capital of Kigali when the coup was launched Thursday, told Rwandan Radio.

He said his information came from Burundi, though he gave no other immediate details. Mr. Minani also said several senior officials in Mr. Ndadaye's regime had fled to Rwanda.

"The whole world knows that they killed him in cold blood, as well as the speaker of parliament and many other democratically elected leaders of Burundi," he said.

Rwanda Radio reported Thursday that Mr. Ndadaye had been executed, along with the interior minister and security chief.

Earlier Radio Burundi said the coup-makers had installed a Committee of National Salvation led by Francois Ngeze, the interior minister in the government of ex-President Pierre Buyoya.

Tatarstan, an oil-rich republic in the Volga River basin, has declared sovereignty, adopted its own constitution and assumed sweeping control over budgetary affairs and finance.

Tatarstan assumed the powers during a long conflict between Mr. Yeltsin and parliament that weakened Moscow's control over the regions. They may now be forced either to renounce the sovereignty they claim or declare some form of independence.

References to sovereignty were included in a presidential draft of the constitution tentatively approved in the summer. But after the crushing of a hardline uprising this month, Mr. Yeltsin's administration declared the text would be revised largely according to the president's wishes.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Friday that "antique legislation" describing Russia as a Communist country could be eliminated from U.S. laws by the end of this year.

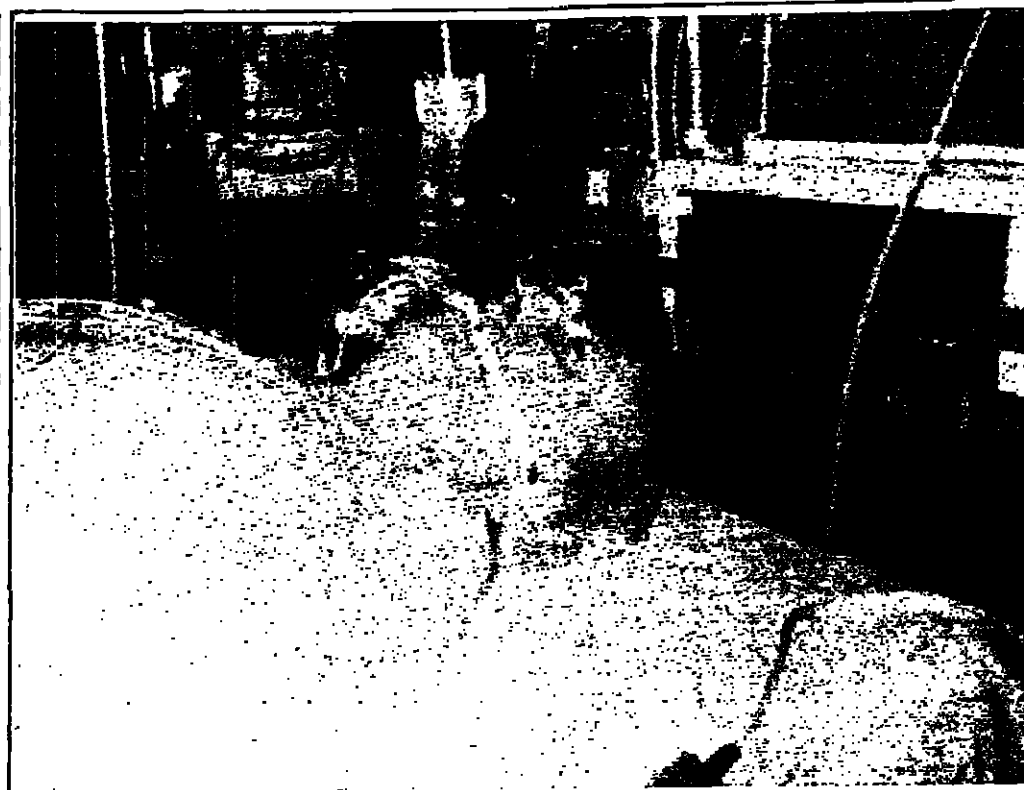
Mr. Christopher said Russia's foreign minister Viktor Chernomyrdin raised the question of the cold war-era language in American laws during a one-hour meeting, and Mr. Christopher said there was "broad legislation pending" in Congress to excise the offending language.

The prime minister raised with me the question about the antique legislation that we have on our books designating Russia as a Communist country," Mr. Christopher told reporters after the meeting.

He said he had "high hopes" that this language could be removed "by the end of this session of Congress, that is, before the end of this year."

U.S. President Bill Clinton is expected to visit Moscow in January for a summit with Mr. Yeltsin, a U.S. official said Friday.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, gave no precise date for the summit, but said it was expected after a NATO meeting in Brussels on Jan. 10-11.



FELLINI IN COMA: Italian film director Thursday. Fellini suffered a heart attack on Oct. 17. A medical bulletin said the director had suffered irreversible brain damage (AFP photo)

Georgia forces recapture Samtredia

TBILISI (R) — The Georgian Defence Ministry said its troops recaptured the western town of Samtredia Friday, driving out ex-President Zviad Gamsakhurdia's rebels.

A ministry spokesman said by telephone that rebels had moved out of Samtredia, a crucial road and rail junction, towards the western town of Abasha.

Interior Ministry chief spokesman Valerian Gogolashvili earlier said fighting was continuing in the town and the centre had been taken by government loyalists.

Georgian officials say government forces have mounted a counterattack against the rebels, but details of the fighting are confused.

Mr. Gogolashvili said Tuesday that government forces had captured three towns, including the crucial port of Poti, but the report proved to be untrue.

On Friday he said the rebels — who say they control most of western Georgia — had seized the south-western town of Ouzgen overnight without a shot being fired.

Georgian radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said the rebels

gunmen had taken the town in contravention of an agreement that government troops would leave the region provided the rebels stayed away.

"Although there was no movement of government forces in the district yesterday and no combat operations took place, (the) illegal units violated the agreement and treacherously entered the town which was practically defenceless," the radio said.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia's men have scored a series of military successes against government forces loyal to Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, already battered and demoralised by the loss of the western Abkhazia province to separatists.

The rebels have approached uncomfortably close to Georgia's second city of Kutaisi, prompting a desperate appeal for Russian military help from Mr. Shevardnadze. Although Moscow declined to intervene militarily, it has committed soldiers to ensure the security of the main rail and road links across Georgia.

A spokesman for the Russian forces in Georgia Friday confirmed plans had begun for deployment of forces to protect

the rail link between Tbilisi and Poti.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia said Thursday the Russian decision represented interference in Georgia's affairs.

Two Western diplomats in the capital Tbilisi said Georgian sources told them Russia had given the Georgian military approximately 50 items of heavy equipment, including tanks and armoured personnel carriers.

The Georgian Defence Ministry said Thursday dozens of soldiers had died in clashes between government and rebel troops in the previous 24 hours.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has sent Mr. Shevardnadze a letter pledging his support and saying America would send more humanitarian aid.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia, Georgia's first democratically-elected president, was toppled in a military revolt in January 1992 by opponents who accused him of trying to establish a dictatorship.

When Mr. Shevardnadze was holed up in Abkhazia last month, Mr. Gamsakhurdia took advantage of his foe's predicament to return from exile.

Yeltsin moves to restore central power

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A top aide of President Boris Yeltsin said Friday that Russia's constituent republics had been removed from a revised draft constitution, according to Interfax News Agency.

The move appeared to be aimed at reassuring Moscow's authority over the provinces and dampening the influence of ethnic groups pressing for stronger powers, especially in the wealthier ethnic-based republics, such as Tatarstan.

It seemed certain to infuriate leaders of some semi-autonomous republics.

Interfax quoted Mr. Yeltsin's administration chief Sergei Filatov as saying retention of the reference to sovereignty could have "unpredictable consequences" — a reference to fears the unity of the Russian Federation could be at stake.

The move could bring to a head a simmering conflict between Moscow and the Tatar capital, Kazan.

Tatarstan, an oil-rich republic in the Volga River basin, has declared sovereignty, adopted its own constitution and assumed sweeping control over budgetary affairs and finance.

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Axl Rose and fan settle lawsuit

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A fan who claims rocker Axl Rose attacked and injured him during a concert accepted an out-of-court settlement and got an autograph, too. A jury had deliberated about three hours before the settlement was announced. Terms were not released. William "Stump" Stephenson, 28, of St. Louis, had sought at least \$210,000 in damages for back and ear injuries, lost wages and medical bills he said were incurred when the singer jumped off a stage during a 1991 concert. The concert at Riverport Amphitheatre in suburban St. Louis ended in a riot in which about 65 people were hurt. Rose is the lead singer of the band Guns N' Roses, whose hits include Sweet Child O' Mine and November Rain. Rose, 31, said he "felt great" about the settlement. Mr. Stephenson said he was pleased with the outcome, too. "It's over and I want to get on with my life," said Mr. Stephenson, who got Rose to sign his scrapbook. Rose's lawyer, Allen Boston, told the jury Rose leaped off the stage to snatch a camera away from Mr. Stephenson. Cameras are not allowed at Riverport, and Rose testified he was afraid Stephenson would sell the pictures to a tabloid. But Mr. Stephenson's attorney, Mark Bromson, said others were using cameras and Rose singled out Mr. Stephenson. After the scuffle with fans, Rose returned briefly to the stage and criticised Riverport security before storming off, ending the concert and touching off the riot. Mr. Stephenson was the first of about 20 lawsuits filed against Rose.

Michael Jackson postpones Chile concert

SANTIAGO (R) — Pop superstar Michael Jackson postponed the first of two shows in Chile just hours before he was due to go on stage Thursday, saying he had strained his back. Jackson's personal doctor, David Forecaat, told a news conference the singer had pulled a muscle in his lower back and that the injury left him short of breath. After a check-up Thursday afternoon, Dr. Forecaat said he and Jackson decided the star could not go ahead with his exhausting show. "If Michael was a performer who sat on a chair and played a guitar, the concert could go ahead... (but) it's a two-hour action-packed show and he's moving all the time," Dr. Forecaat said. Organisers earlier said Jackson had complained of stomach problems. Organisers denied rumours the concert was postponed out of security concerns due to a fierce shootout between police and leftist guerrillas barely a mile (two kms) from Jackson's hotel Thursday afternoon. At least eight people were killed in the gunbattle, police said. Jackson was not even aware of the gunbattle, concert organisers said, Saturday's concert was expected to go ahead as scheduled and the postponed show would be held next week, organisers said.

Britain launches national lottery, promises bonanza

LONDON (R) — Britain joined the rest of Western Europe Friday by launching a National Lottery, promising a flutter for the punter and a bonanza for good causes. Peter Brooke, the National Heritage Secretary, said the lottery would have prize money of about £14 million (\$21 million) a week when it starts in late 1994 or early 1995. Ticket sales could initially reach £1.5 billion (\$2.25 billion) a year, leaving some £75 million (\$112 million) to distribute to charities, the arts, sport, the upkeep of Britain's heritage and a fund to celebrate the year 2000. Other estimates put annual ticket sales as high as £4 billion (\$6 billion). Until Friday, when Queen Elizabeth formally gave her assent to a bill establishing the lottery, Britain was the only country in Western Europe without a lottery. Mr. Brooke told a news conference. Even Albania had one, he said. "In the coming years the National Lottery will channel hundreds of millions of pounds into good causes, enriching the quality of our communal life at the same time as it enriches those lucky people who will become millionaires," Mr. Brooke said. Former Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher always opposed a National Lottery as an immoral invitation to weak-willed people to squander their money. But Mr. Brooke said that research showed lotteries were not addictive if they were properly run.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Atletico Madrid coach quits

MADRID (AP) — Brazilian coach Jair Pereira is leaving Atletico Madrid, the club announced Friday, ending weeks of speculation. Pereira, who has failed to establish a good rapport with the players or to deliver results on the pitch, will be replaced temporarily by his Argentine deputy "Cacho" Heredia. Heredia had been the team's coach at the end of last season, following the sacking of Luis Aragones and another Argentine Omar Pastoriza. Club President Jesus Gil Y Gil has openly admitted recently that he made a mistake by recruiting Pereira. He is now looking for his 15th coach in seven years for the midtable club.

Rusedski beats Gustafsson at Salem Open

PEKING (AP) — Greg Rusedski blasted 21 aces to upset second-seeded Magnus Gustafsson Friday in the quarterfinals of the Salem Open. "The difference is all mental," said Rusedski, ranked 71st in the world, who defeated the 19th-ranked Swede 7-5, 4-6, (7-2). "I can play the big points well now." The win added to a series of upsets Rusedski pulled last week when he reached the semifinals of the Seiko Super Tennis Tournament in Tokyo, where he beat Wayne Ferreira, Richard Krajicek and Michael Chang. Chang, ranked No. 7 in the world, is seeded first at the Salem Open, China's first ATP professional tournament. Rusedski, a 20-year-old Canadian who lives in London, attributed his new-found strength to his work with sports psychologist Wayne Halliwell. "I think it's because I believe in myself more now. I've been watching tapes of the top guys playing big points," he said. In another singles quarterfinal, fourth-seeded Brad Gilbert of San Rafael, Calif., beat sixth-seeded Jonas Sevensson of Sweden, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Heyssel to be renovated, renamed

BRUSSELS (AP) — Football is set to return to the Heyssel Stadium where 39 mainly Italian fans lost their lives before the 1985 European Cup final. The Belgian cabinet gave the go-ahead Friday for renovation work to start on the stadium in September 1994. Heyssel, which will be renamed the King Baudouin Stadium after the Belgian monarch who died in July, has been off-limits to football since the fateful May 25 final between Juventus and Liverpool. Liverpool fans charged the Italians on the terraces, causing a crush which was then compounded by a wall collapsing. The new ground will be a covered 40,000 all-seater, conforming to the new safety regulations required by the European Football Union (UEFA). It should be completed in July 1995 and officially opened in August with an international friendly between Belgium and Germany. The inauguration will also coincide with the centenary of the Belgian Football Union. The revamped stadium, estimated to cost \$20 million, is seen here as the centrepiece of a joint Belgian/Dutch bid to host the European Championship finals in 2000. It will only be used for internationals, and not Belgian League matches.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMARA HIRSCH
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DUAL TASKS PROVE IMPOSSIBLE

Both vulnerable, West dealer.
NORTH
♠ 8 2
♥ K Q J 6 3
♦ A K 5 4
WEST
♠ K Q J 5
♥ A 5 3
♦ 9 2
♣ Q J 9 8
SOUTH
♠ A 9 8
♥ K Q J 9 8 7
♦ 7 4
♣ 10 2

The bidding:
West 1♣ East 2♣
West 2♥ East 2♥
West 3♥ East 3♥
West 4♥ East 4♥
Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
If we were asked for the one Golden Rule of bridge, we would opt for: "Plan your campaign before playing to the first trick." This holds true for both declarer and the defenders.
South's jump response to North's overall shows a near opening bid with a good six-card suit. Thus, North could carry on to game with only two-card support, but a good hand.

West led the king of spades. Although the only immediate losers are a trick in each suit except clubs, there is the matter of how to take care of the third spade in hand. Suppose declarer were to grab the ace of spades and return a spade, planning to ruff the third spade as soon as possible. West would win and play the ace and another heart and, on winning the ace of diamonds, the defenders would be able to cash another spade for down one. Better is to lead a diamond at trick two, but that might run into other problems.

Best is simply to allow the king of spades to hold the first trick. Now the defenders must try to accomplish two things at once—set up another spade winner for themselves and draw dummy's trumps.
If the defenders clear two rounds of trumps, declarer can draw the last trump and force out the ace of diamonds, while the ace of spades is still in the South hand to control the suit. A spade will then go away on a high diamond. And if West perseveres with a spade, declarer simply ruffs a spade, drives out the master trump and coasts home.

Phillies stay alive with 2-0 win over Jays

PHILADELPHIA — Curt Schilling pitched a masterful complete-game shutout as the Philadelphia Phillies stayed alive in the World Series with a 2-0 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays.

The loss cut the defending champion Blue Jays' lead in the best-of-seven series to 3-2 heading back to Toronto for game six Saturday and, if necessary, game seven Sunday. Schilling, who was the loser of game one, scattered five hits and struck out five while walking three as he faced just six batters above the minimum, getting the benefit of two double plays.

Toronto starter Juan Guzman was nearly as good, yielding just two runs, one earned, on five hits over seven innings. Danny Cox pitched one scoreless inning, walking two but then striking out three in a row.

"We played a great solid game in the field today," said Schilling, raising the memory of game four's wild and woolly play.

"The fans were outstanding, getting on their feet every time we needed a big out. We made the plays when we had to make them tonight."

The Phillies, seeking just their second World Series title in five appearances starting in 1915 and their first since 1980, bounced back from a devastating 15-14 loss Wednesday in which they had carried a five-run lead into the eighth inning.

Asked if he was surprised at the Phillies' resilience, Toronto manager Cito Gaston said: "No, they have the same type of players as we have. They are like you call in baseball a bunch of gamblers. They're not going to quit, they go out there

to win." Philadelphia manager Jim Fregosi said his team had bounced back from ugly outings many times before. "We played a lot of games like last night's game. This club is a tough club."

Terry Mulholland, winner of game two, was scheduled to start for Philadelphia Saturday against Toronto's Dave Stewart, who has a three-game World Series losing streak including game two.

John Kruk and rookie shortstop Kevin Stocker — the only two Philadelphia starters not to get hits in Wednesday's 32-hit game — knocked in Thursday's only runs.

In the first inning, Lenny Dykstra walked, stole second and advanced to third on catcher Pat Borders' throw into center field. He came home on Kruk's infield ground-out.

"After last night's game, who would have thought that a ground ball to second would win the game?" Kruk said.

In the second, Darren Daulton led off with a double to the center field wall and came home on Stocker's double down the first base line to make it 2-0.

Asked what he felt getting the RBI, Stocker said: "Relief, I guess. It felt really good." Kruk had a vivid memory of the night before: "Like a kick to the testicles — hard. Not your typical one-run game," he said.

But he pointed out that the Phillies had come back from debacles against Atlanta in the National League Championship series. "Against the Braves we got blown out twice and came back and won three in a row," Kruk said.

Olympic skating champ has a long way to go

DALLAS (AP) — As far as he's come already, Brian Boitano's performance Thursday night in Skate America made it clear he has a long way to go.

Boitano, certainly knows that and isn't being misled by finishing first in the technical programme of the first significant international event of the figure skating season.

The 1988 Olympic champion, who had his Olympic eligibility reinstated to pursue another gold medal at Lillehammer, Norway in February, was good enough. But he wasn't great, certainly not Olympic.

Still, Boitano's sharp spins and strong triple axel-double toe loop combination gave him first place with five of the seven judges. It didn't matter much that the four-time U.S. champion stepped out of his triple lutz or that he had a shaky landing on his double axel.

"I'm encouraged," Boitano said. "Once I was out there, it was sort of like the pro-ams. I think all the hype before for me put more pressure on for this. I think all the hype before for me put more pressure on for this. I think this will probably be one of the most difficult competitions for me this year."

Boitano, who turned 30 Friday, didn't look comfortable until he hit the combination. "I think the triple lutz was the first one I've missed in years," he said, noting that he went over an ice chunk just before attempting the opening jump. "After the triple axel, I was having fun. I'm really proud of myself after making a mistake on what I know is my

most consistent jump, the triple lutz, then for me to hit the least consistent, the triple axel, it shows I'm mentally strong."

Alexei Urmanov of Russia, a bronze medalist in this year's World Championships, was second in the technical programme, worth one-third of the total score. Urmanov's routine was clean, crisp and his jumps and footwork were fine. He got first-place votes from the other two judges.

Viktor Petrenko, the 1992 Olympic champion who, like Boitano, is back from the professional ranks, hit a monstrous triple axel-double toe loop combination. His smooth footwork was reminiscent of his performance at Albertville, and Petrenko seemed more relaxed on ice than did Boitano.

But he messed up his triple lutz, landing on two feet and then stumbling, and that was enough to sink him to third heading into Saturday's free skate.

Two-time U.S. champion Todd Eldredge, who has struggled since winning his second American title in 1991 and finishing third in the worlds, continued to have problems. Skating first, Eldredge immediately went down on his triple axel and didn't do a combination. He wound up fifth.

In ice dance, Sophie Moniotte and Pascal Lavancy of France added victory in the original dance to their first-place finish in the compulsory. Heading into Saturday's free dance — worth 50 per cent — they lead Katerina Mravova and Martin Simecek of the Czech Republic. U.S. champions Renee Roca and Gorsha Sar moved up to third.

Iraq wins soccer battle with Iran

DOHA (AP) — Iraq beat traditional foe Iran 2-1 in a World Cup soccer qualification game Friday, unleashing a frenzy of joy from Iraqi fans who released half a dozen doves and waved pictures of Saddam Hussein.

All the goals came in the first half, Iraq scoring on the 19th and 37th minute. Iran's only goal was scored on the 21st minute.

The game was marked by rough soccer. Iraq collected four yellow cards and one red card and Iran two yellow cards and one red card.

Just before the match, Iraqi players under pressure to qualify and travel to the U.S. for the 1994 World Cup passed by a photograph of a praying Saddam.

The Iranian players put their palms on a Holy Koran and shouted "Ya-Ali," after the first Imam of their Shiite Muslim sect.

The antipathy Iraq and Iran have harbored for each other since the 1980-88 Gulf War that left 1 million people killed or wounded, and the lack of soccer discipline for which their teams are notorious, prompted the Qataris to step up security to prevent the rivalry from spilling over to the audience.

Also, expatriates from both

nations were warned that any soccer-related violence would result in the termination of their work contracts and deportation.

Police sniffer dogs were brought to the 40,000-seat Khalifa Stadium in trucks to help search for any hidden weapons or explosives before the match. They were kept locked up until the Iran-Iraq game was over.

Iraq missed its first opportunity to score in the ninth minute, when Laith Hussein's shot from 15 metres went over the goalpost. Six minutes later Iraq's Saad Benaymin failed to keep the ball under control inside the Iranian penalty box and fumbled.

The first Iraqi goal came on the 19th minute from superb ball control by Ahmad Radhi, who beat two Iranian defenders and the goalkeeper and flicked the ball in the nets.

The Iranians mounted a quick counterattack and on the 21st minute Ali Dai scored the equaliser.

On the 33rd minute, Iran's Laith Hussein missed one of the easiest chances to score. He failed to beat Iraqi goalkeeper Saad Ibrahim from five metres.

Iraq went ahead on the 37th minute when Alla Jebur scored on a powerful shot from the

left flank. Iran suffered a severe blow and was down to 10 players when Javed Zarinecheh, already under caution, was booked for obstructing an Iraqi player. He had to leave the field.

At half-time Iraq led 2-1. On the 62nd minute of play, Iraq was also down to 10 players when Romanian referee Ion Craciunescu expelled Iraq's Habib Jaffar for dangerous play.

The two countries last played in Kuwait in 1989, ending in a 0-0 draw.

Friday's soccer encounter was crucial for Iraq.

A defeat would have nearly forced them out of the six-

nation tournament and shattered Iraq's dream for its team to play in the United States. Iranian coach Ali Parvin said he thought Zarinecheh's bookings "were a bit fast." But he added: "I thought it was still a good game."

Iraqi coach Ahmad Baha Dawood said "there was no intentional friction between the teams."

When asked about Iraq's declared intention to get to America to undermine the international embargo, he said: "All six teams here are under political pressure to qualify. I am very happy today because I have fulfilled people's expectations."

Karpov wins 16th game against Timman

JAKARTA (R) — Anatoly Karpov of Russia defeated Jan Timman of the Netherlands in the 16th game of the official World Chess Championship Friday after 59 moves and seven hours' play.

Karpov has now won three consecutive games, and holds a lead of 10.5 points to 5.5 in the match. The next game will be played Saturday with Timman having the white pieces, the

winner of the 24-game match will be the first player to score 12.5 points.

Karpov held all the trumps against Timman during the 16th game.

Karpov already enjoyed a four-point advantage in the match and experts said the position he had achieved by the middle of this game admirably suited his box constrictor style.

Prost takes provisional pole in Japan

SUZUKA, Japan (Agencies) — Frenchman Alain Prost moved a step closer to his elusive first victory in the Japanese Grand Prix Friday when he claimed the provisional pole position for Sunday's race.

Prost, who clinched his fourth World Drivers' Championship a month ago in Portugal, overcame a series of problems to clock the fastest time of the day in opening qualifying.

Prost had been delayed in the morning free session by engine failure in his Williams after only three laps, and this hampered his performance in the afternoon.

But once he found his form, he produced a best lap of one minute and 38.587 seconds to eclipse his nearest rival German Michael Schumacher, in a Benetton, by just two-hundredths of a second.

Finland's Mika Hakkinen was third-fastest in a McLaren, ahead of teammate Brazilian, Ayrton Senna. British Damon Hill was fifth-fastest in the second Williams and Austrian Gerhard Berger sixth in a Ferrari.

The session was interrupted for 18 minutes when Jean Alesi of France lost control of his Ferrari and crashed. He was unhurt.

Alesi's car was badly damaged when he skidded across the circuit on the high-speed exit from the long spoon curve. Senna later topped the times briefly before he was overhauled by Schumacher's excellent lap and later by Prost.

Prost said: "I did not feel our cars would be well-suited to this track and I knew we would have to do some work to be really competitive." "So, it was a real problem for me when I had an engine problem this morning. I lost a lot of time and it made my job today a lot more difficult."

Prost said he did not expect to take the provisional pole

position, but was delighted to do so. "It is not an easy track to set up the car as it is so technical, but I am driving without any pressure," he said.

Schumacher, who was using Benetton's four-wheel steering at a Grand Prix for the first time, said: "I am surprised. At the last couple of races we had problems in practice, but the team has worked very hard and done a fantastic job."

"We have so many new things on the car and they have all worked well. I feel we still have a lot to come and if Williams have been having problems, I feel we have a good chance of taking pole."

Hakkinen, who is driving in only his second Grand Prix for McLaren after replacing American Michael Andretti, said he had really enjoyed himself.

"It was an exciting session again. It could have been even better, but I would say that even if I had got pole position, I am third, but I could have done better."

Senna, who had an oil leak in the morning session, said he had lost a chance of taking pole in the afternoon when his engine blew on his second set of tyres. "It was very frustrating to lose the opportunity to get pole," he said.

Alesi said the accident was his own fault. "I arrived too quickly and got sideways. I thought I could recover," he said. "But I ended up with my right rear wheel on the grass and I could do nothing about it."

Of the three drivers making their debuts, Northern Ireland's Eddie Irvine was most impressive in his Jordan. He was 11th fastest on a circuit he knows well from three years in the Japanese F3000 Championship.

Toshio Suzuki of Japan, in a Larrousse, and Jean-Marc Gounon of France, in a Minardi, finished up 23rd and 24th of the 24 runners.

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Ross' talks on Jordanian economy described as positive

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian officials Friday described as highly positive the discussion that U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross held here Wednesday on Jordan's economy and said they expected concrete measures from Washington soon to address the Kingdom's difficulties, particularly in reducing its foreign debt burden.

The officials said that Mr. Ross discussed the problems faced by the Kingdom in a general context and did not specifically raise the possibility of Washington writing off \$380 million in the Kingdom's military debts to the U.S., but that it was clear that the U.S. would be moving soon in a positive direction.

"The discussion covered the Jordanian debt of \$942 million to the U.S. and how Washington was studying various options to help Jordan reduce it," said one of the sources. "No specific mention was made that Washington would or could write off the military debt," said one source, who preferred anonymity.

Mr. Ross reaffirmed the Clinton administration's commitment to helping Jordan overcome its economic problems, particularly its foreign debt of nearly \$7 billion, and promised that Washington would work closely with other creditors of the Kingdom to help it reduce its burden, said the source.

The source declined to be specific when asked whether Mr. Ross went into any details of the practical steps Washington might be considering in this respect.

"The next few days and weeks should witness some positive developments," said the source.

Mr. Ross himself, addressing a press conference after his talks here, said the discussions covered the debt question. "We, from our end, talked about the president's commitment to trying to be as responsive as we can on the issue of debt."

"We talked about some of

the difficulties that will be faced, but we also made it clear that we will do all we can to try to move ahead on this issue."

Part of the "difficulties" that Mr. Ross alluded to was taken to imply possible hurdles posed by the U.S. Congress in any outright write-off of Jordan's debts.

American laws permit the write-off of only military debts, as Washington has done in the case of Egypt and Poland, and Jordanian officials have expressed high hopes that this could be applicable for the Kingdom.

"Some new mechanism will have to be found to reduce Jordan's non-military debts to the U.S.," said a European diplomat. "It is not clear yet whether there is a mood in Washington to do so, given the fact that the administration might be reluctant to set precedents."

In his comments here Wednesday, Mr. Ross said Washington "still had to sort out exactly what is possible."

"There still are, I think, efforts that we are going to make on our own, and then we'll talk with others who are some of the creditors to figure out how best we might try to reduce the burden that Jordan is currently feeling," he said.

Diplomatic sources interpreted this comment to mean the acceptance by Washington that unless it took the lead in alleviating Jordan's debt burden it will not be in a comfortable position to ask some of its European friends to do so.

The Jordanian sources also said that another issue raised during Mr. Ross' talks here was the direct losses that Jordan was suffering from the three-year-old international sanctions against Iraq.

"The U.S. has promised that it would do what it could to reduce the impact of the sanctions on Jordan," said one source.

"This would mean an improvement in the inspection of Aqaba-bound ships with a view to reducing the delays and losses suffered by Jordanian importers," said the source.

"It is not clear yet how this could be achieved, but we have

been given to understand that the fact-finding committee's report will be positive in affirming that Jordan is enforcing the sanctions against Iraq," said the source.

The source was referring to the visit in September of an American official delegation which held talks with officials and businessmen in Jordan and looked into the various aspects of Jordan's enforcement of the sanctions.

The delegation's report is almost in its final form, and the findings and recommendations therein could be translated into measures that would alleviate the problems faced by Aqaba-bound ships, diplomats said.

Another aspect of the report is expected to cover Jordanian exports to Iraq of items exempt from the sanctions. Jordanian exporters have been complaining that they faced unjustified delays in securing U.N. permission for their exports to Iraq while competitors in other countries, including Turkey and Iran, Iraq's two other neighbours, did not have such problems.

An accelerated process of clearing Jordanians' requests for U.N. permission for exports to Iraq is expected to be recommended in the report of the American delegation, which was headed by Ambassador David Newton.

Answering a question at Wednesday's press conference, Mr. Ross said that Washington would try to help Jordan within the constraints imposed by the sanctions on Iraq.

"We made it clear it is very important from our standpoint to ensure that the sanctions regime is one that continues to be enforced, but we want to look for ways to also take account (of) Jordan's needs and try to be responsive to Jordan's needs while also ensuring the sanctions regime," he said.

There was no detailed explanation to the role of the joint Jordanian-American-Israeli economic working group announced after an Oct. 1 meeting at the White House between President Clinton and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The sources said the working

group was expected to hold its first meeting on the sidelines of the next round of the bilateral talks between Israel and the Arab parties involved in the peace process. No date has yet been set for the bilateral talks.

Asked at Wednesday's press conference what was the group's specific role, Mr. Ross said: "We see it as an important mechanism for developing and coordinating on projects that could be of mutual benefit."

"We see it as an important mechanism for coordinating on broader efforts to promote peace and also areas of economic cooperation and economic development. So, we would hope to be able to move ahead in terms of having a meeting of such a group in the near future, and that's one of the things we talked about here and we will be talking about that with the Israelis as well."

In a general context, Mr. Ross also affirmed that Jordan had to play a major role in contributing to the economic development of the Palestinians in the context of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accord.

"If you look at the (Israel-PLO) declaration of principles (signed on Sept. 13), within the declaration... itself there is an expectation and a need that Jordan will take part," Mr. Ross told reporters. "The fact of the matter is that when one begins talking about economic cooperation, many of the issues that come up there necessarily involve Jordan as well," he said.

"That is something we understood clearly not only from the character of the declaration of principles but frankly from the discussions that we have had with Palestinians and Israelis, and also with the Jordanians," added the U.N. envoy who held talks with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Tunis before flying to Jordan.

"So, I think that as steps are taken to change the realities on the ground, especially to economic development, those are steps that both have an effect on Jordan and will be affected by Jordan," he said.

Mr. Arafat said France will provide a quarter of aid pledged by the EC to the Palestinian autonomous areas of Jericho and the Gaza Strip. He set no figure, but the EC pledged 500 million ECUs (\$600 million) in aid over five years and 90 million ECUs (\$108 million) in 1993 after the September 13 autonomy accord signed with Israel in Washington.

Mr. Arafat was speaking af-

Jordan's role is in no way diminished — Abu Nowar

LONDON (Petra) — Information Minister Maan Abu Nowar has said that Jordan has an important role to play in the region despite its small geographic size and limited economic resources.

He was speaking in an interview with Saudi Arabia's Al Sharq Al Awsat newspaper, published in London.

On Jordan's political future following the signing of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation accord, Dr. Abu Nowar said there was no reason for fear or concern "since Jordan is a full-fledged independent state with its independent official institutions."

"Jordan is leading a democratic life," he noted.

"Jordan is one of the oldest political entities in the region and the Jordanian people are capable of defending its entity, honour, and human dignity, as they have always done since 1921," he said. "The rapid developments which the region is witnessing warrants the establishment of a new Arab order based on brotherhood and understanding."

He reiterated Jordan's com-

mitment to Arab coordination and said Jordan would not take any unilateral decision that might harm Arab coordination.

Throughout the two-year-old Middle East peace talks, Jordan has been keen on coordinating with the Arabs and never adopted a unilateral decision and did not sign the Jordanian-Israeli agenda until after the Palestinians signed the declaration of principles with the Israelis, Dr. Abu Nowar pointed out.

On His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Dr. Abu Nowar said:

"Jordan does not fear negotiating with anybody. Nor does it fear claiming its rights anywhere. Jordan will not hesitate in supporting negotiations, but will not negotiate secretly."

Jordanian-Syrian relations, Dr. Abu Nowar said, are brotherly and historical and will continue to be so just as Jordan's ties are with other Arab countries.

Jordanian-Syrian contacts

are continuous and His Majesty King Hussein and President Hafez Al Assad recently exchanged views over the phone on regional and international issues of common interest, he noted.

In answer to a question about rumours that Palestinians living in Lebanon will be settled in Jordan, Dr. Abu Nowar said this was "strange" information and that there "will not be any movement of Palestinians from anywhere to anywhere."

"Jordan has endured a lot, and it will not be able to accept any new migration of whatever kind," he said.

Asked whether Jordan will host the environment committee meetings emanating from the multilateral talks of the peace process, Dr. Abu Nowar said it was premature to talk about this subject and stressed that Jordan had not offered to host such meetings.

On the Nov. 8 elections, Dr. Abu Nowar said the government had made all the necessary arrangements to ensure the integrity of elections and that they are held in a free and democratic atmosphere.

Arafat gets pledges of French aid, cooperation

PARIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, on his first visit to Europe since signing a historic peace agreement with Israel, has won pledges of rapid aid from France and practical help from French businessmen.

President Francois Mitterrand promised to lobby European Community (EC) leaders at a summit next week to speed up visible aid for health services and education in the occupied territories, his spokesman said.

And French business leaders offered swift assistance to rebuild the crumbling infrastructure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip after 26 years of Israeli occupation.

Mr. Arafat said France will provide a quarter of aid pledged by the EC to the Palestinian autonomous areas of Jericho and the Gaza Strip. He set no figure, but the EC pledged 500 million ECUs (\$600 million) in aid over five years and 90 million ECUs (\$108 million) in 1993 after the September 13 autonomy accord signed with Israel in Washington.

Mr. Arafat was speaking af-

ter lunching here as guest of National Assembly Speaker Philippe Seguin.

The PLO leader was set to meet French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur later Friday after lunching on Thursday with President Mitterrand.

Mr. Arafat pledged that the Palestinians would follow French revolutionary ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity. "France today stands by our side at this new dawn in the Middle East," he told a joint news conference with Mr. Seguin.

The PLO leader also met the head of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, Federico Mayor, to discuss boosting education and protecting holy places.

Meanwhile the head of the French employers' organisation, Francois Perigot, said French companies were ready to play a part in laying the foundations of an economy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Mr. Perigot, who is president of the CNPF employers' federation, spoke after a meeting he and representatives from 10 big French companies held with Mr. Arafat.

Switzerland converts loans

(Continued from page 1)

improved living conditions for its people the concept of "the dividends of peace" would sound hollow.

"The disparities in the region are so vast that unless the gaps are narrowed, it is difficult to see how peace can be beneficial," he said, noting that the per capita income in Israel was ten times more than that in Jordan.

Reminded that European countries have been resisting calls for outright write-off as a form of debt relief arguing that it would set precedents for other Third World debtors, Mr. Gammo said there were many other avenues available to offer debt relief.

In any case, he said, "Jordan's case is unique. Its economic problems were not solely of its own making, and it is not a typical case of a country overborrowing and incurring external debts."

Jordan should not be lined up among other Third World debtors and be subject to the same parameters that apply to debtor countries since the external obligations that it had to incur were prompted by circumstances created by factors beyond its control, he said.

The finance minister explained that Jordan had absorbed several waves of "refugees and displaced people," as well as the more than 300,000 expatriates who returned home after the Gulf crisis despite the heavy strains they imposed on the Kingdom's economy and infrastructure.

"These were situations beyond Jordan's control, and Jordan could not be left alone to handle the burden," he said. "It is partly an international responsibility."

The Paris Club of creditor governments has in principle offered a debt reduction of around \$20 million, an insignificant sum when seen against the backdrop of the Kingdom's overall debts.

Mr. Gammo referred to the new economic realities

that Jordan faced in the wake of the Gulf crisis. He cited as an example of Jordan's problems the sudden emergence of a need to upgrade its energy sector. "It was established earlier that Jordan's power needs could be satisfactorily met until the year 1997," he said. Now, with the addition of 10 per cent in population, "we find ourselves pressed to upgrade generating facilities in 1994," he said.

Such situations apply to almost every segment of the infrastructure, "whether health services, water supply, education and transport services," he said.

Jordan is not seeking a unilateral wipe-off of its debts, he said. Options were available to the creditors to convert their dues from Jordan into investments in the Kingdom and reap benefits from the holdings while contributing to Jordan's efforts to interact with regional economic development as part of the Middle East peace process, he said.

"It is a two-way street," he pointed out. "Both the investor and Jordan will benefit from such investments."

European diplomats say that under the present global debt situation, it will be difficult for their governments to consider debt write-offs since other Third World debtors would cite it as a precedent and seek similar debt relief.

"We are willing to discuss investment projects in Jordan and I believe the government of Jordan should table concrete projects on the table without delay," said the diplomat, who preferred anonymity. He declined to elaborate whether such investments could come in the form of converted debts.

The diplomat said, however, that by large European Community (EC) members — understood Jordan's predicament and shared the view that relief should be extended to the Kingdom within the limitations of their governments.

Court hears defence complaint

AMMAN (Petra) — The State Security Court Thursday met for the third day in a row to hear testimony from defence witnesses in the case of the Islamic Liberation Party (Hezb At Tahrir Al Islami).

At the beginning of the sessions, presided over by Colonel Hafez Amin, defence lawyers presented a memorandum containing comments on the progress of the case, saying the continuous hearings do not allow the defence sufficient time to collect evidence, let alone the psychological and physical stress they put on the defence and defendants.

The court decided to postpone discussion of this memorandum to a later session.

The court then heard the testimony of a superior officer on the third defendant.

The officer said the defendant used to listen to advice and accept it, and respected the soldiers under his command and treated them well.

The court also heard the testimony of another witness who said that the third defendant was a very normal person and that throughout the period they shared a room at the Muta University dormitory, he did not notice the defendant having relations or affiliations to any illegal party or organisation.

The third witness, head of a prison, said the defendants received proper medical treatment immediately after they entered the prison. He added that a doctor regularly visits all inmates and refer cases to hospital for medical treatment whenever needed.

He also said that he allowed the defence lawyers to visit the defendants, and allowed the defendants to have radios and provided them with newspapers.

The prison doctor testified that he examined the defendants' bodies but could not find any signs of torture.

He added that psychiatrists usually help him to the course of his duties and that none of them had informed him of any psychological problems faced by any of the defendants.

The court continues its hearing Saturday. It acceded to a request by the defence to ask the doctor to present the defendants' medical records in court.

Rebels say Iraq used poison gas

LONDON (R) — An Iraqi opposition group said on Friday hundreds of marsh Arabs were killed or injured in a chemical gas attack by Iraqi government forces last month.

British Parliamentarian Emma Nicholson, who is involved with a refugee camp on the Iraqi-Iranian border, also said that doctors working there had received similar reports from refugees fleeing the area near the south-eastern Iraqi city of Basra.

Patients have come across from the Iraqi side and have reported to them that there has indeed been a terrible chemical weapons assault," she told Britain's BBC radio.

No customs reduction on small cars — Gammo

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Finance Minister Sami Gammo Friday ruled out any reduction in the customs duties charged on small cars imported into Jordan, but left the door open for a reconsideration of the duties imposed on larger vehicles.

"It is a big 'no' for small cars," said Mr. Gammo when asked about local reports that his ministry was considering lowering customs duties on automobiles.

The minister noted the government had reduced customs duties on passenger cars last year, when it was faced with a deluge of vehicles brought in by expatriates returning from Kuwait and some other Gulf countries.

"Now the country's roads are jammed with cars, creating traffic problems and high consumption of imported energy," he noted.

"What Jordan needs now is a focus on national transport," he said referring to larger vehicles, such as buses and transport vehicles. This is an area that the government would be looking into, he told the Jordan Times.

Dr. Fahed Fanek, a columnist and noted economic analyst, rejected the widely-held notion that Jordan was obliged to reduce customs duties on automobiles as part of the economic restructuring programme it has agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The programme stipulates a ceiling on taxes and customs duties on products that have Jordanian equivalents, he said, pointing out that this did not

apply to automobiles since the Kingdom does not manufacture vehicles.

Expectations that the Ministry of Finance and Customs was to announce a reduction in customs duties for passenger cars were raised by a report in the local press which quoted Mr. Gammo as saying that he was under consideration.

But, Mr. Gammo told the Jordan Times, the report based itself on a quote taken out of context and that what he had meant was the possibility of the government studying customs duties on larger transport vehicles.

Car dealers in Amman had reported a dramatic decline in sales in the wake of speculation that customs duties were going to be lowered.

"There was an air of expectation among potential buyers that they stood to gain a little if they waited a bit longer," said the manager of a leading dealer in used cars in Amman.

Hopes of expatriates that they stood to gain a total exemption of customs duties on their cars were raised when His Majesty King Hussein announced a general amnesty for violators of the law in November 1992.

But, Finance Ministry officials later explained, their interpretation — as handed down from their superiors — was that the amnesty did not mean that expatriates were exempted from paying customs duties on their cars.

"Any such exemption would not have been fair at all to those expatriates who had already paid customs on their cars," said a senior Finance Ministry official.

Emotional funeral for slain Fatch leader

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AP) — Over 10,000 mourners, many weeping and some vowing revenge, packed downtown Gaza Friday for the funeral of a leading moderate and friend of Yasser Arafat

gunned down in a widening cycle of internal Palestinian violence that could threaten the peace accord.

Assad Saftawi, 58, was shot three times in the head Thursday by masked men in front of his 12-year-old son on a Gaza Street.

The assassination sent shock waves through the occupied territories as well as Israel. Mr. Saftawi was the most senior of three leaders from the Fatch faction shot dead since the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement was signed Sept. 13.

"They were killed because they want peace. Those who killed them are against peace," said Fawzi Ikhalil, whose own son Mahal was shot dead Oct. 16.

No realistic claims of responsibility have surfaced in Gaza, and few want to talk openly about assigning blame. But the shootings are widely seen as the action of younger, violent members of the PLO who ran the uprising against Israel and do not want to be supplanted under the autonomy accord by an older, more political generation.

The death of a figure respected by all factions spread fear among Gazans that the violence will escalate, with many asking "who will be next?"

Mr. Saftawi was a friend of Mr. Arafat since their university days who helped found his Fatch movement, the largest

PLO faction. He played a key behind-the-scenes role in mediation efforts among Israel, Egypt and the PLO which led to the accord to start Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank city of Jericho.

In an area almost insured to violence due to the hundreds killed in the uprising, the death of a revered school headmaster evoked widespread public grief.

Behind the four horseman and the huge Palestinian flag leading the cortege, thousands of mourners cried openly. Mr. Saftawi's body was put on a truck, covered with another flag and piles of flowers.

Black banners stretched over the roads where the procession passed carried messages like "He is a martyr of treachery and treason" and demanded revenge.

Israeli soldiers stood at intersections, watching the procession without interfering.

"All the Palestinian people loved Saftawi and we are very angry," Mahmoud Salameh, sheikh of the Al Amari Mosque, said.

"Injustice is easier to take when it comes from the enemy rather than a brother," another prayer leader intoned.

"This kind of action kills the Palestinian cause. In the Israeli Knesset they shout at each other, but here we shoot at each other," said Mr. Ikhalil.

Businesses throughout Gaza were shut in general protest strike.

Elsewhere in Gaza City, a 28-year-old female nurse named Palestine Hijazi was axed to death at a clinic as an alleged collaborator with Israel, Arab reports said. No other details were available.

U.N. television film showed Dr. Ghali stressing to Baidoa elders that a political solution to Somalia's chaos had to come by March 31.

U.N. television film showed Dr. Ghali stressing to Baidoa elders that a political solution to Somalia's chaos had to come by March 31.

Ghali's secret Mogadishu visit sparks protests

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Supporters of warlord Mohamed Farah Aided staged angry protests and erected barricades during a brief and secretive visit to Mogadishu Friday by United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

Journalists were barred from Mogadishu airport except the official U.N. television as Dr.

Ghali made a two-hour stop, defying warnings from the U.N. government and his own security advisers that his presence might shatter a fragile 13-day-old ceasefire. U.N. sources said.

He never left the heavily-fortified airport, where he visited a Romanian field hospital.

The morale-boosting visit

was designed to "demonstrate appreciation and support for the U.N. staff here, working under difficult conditions," said U.N. spokesman Farouk Mawlawi, who had maintained a stony silence about the visit until Dr. Ghali left.

But Mawlawi said Dr. Ghali, a former Egyptian minister, had met only 40 to 50 U.N. staffers including senior mili-

ary commanders from the U.S., French, Italian, Belgian and other forces here.

Dr. Ghali first spent several hours in the central town of Baidoa where he visited a school and an orphanage.

U.N. television film showed Dr. Ghali stressing to Baidoa elders that a political solution to Somalia's chaos had to come by March 31.

COLUMN 180001

Planet to be named after tycoon

SYDNEY (R) — The late Australian tycoon, Robert Holmes A Court, is to be immortalised in the heavens in the form of a new minor planet to be named in his honour. Astronomers at the Perth Observatory who discovered the asteroid said Friday they had submitted his name to international astronomical authorities. "He was a prominent Western Australian and I think it would be appropriate to commemorate him in this way," the observatory's director, Mike Candy, told Reuters from Perth. The asteroid, now known as 1980 TL, is a 10 kilometre wide boulder drifting between Mars and Jupiter. It was spotted in 1980 by astronomer Alison McNay but could not be named until its orbit around the sun had been catalogued. That was done earlier this year, and the International Astronomical Union, which decides on stellar nomenclature, asked the astronomers to name their discovery. It will be known as 3764 Holmes A Court. Mr. Holmes A Court, who died in 1990, made his millions through his successful Bell Group Ltd and Heytsbury Holdings companies. He was a philanthropist, supporter of aborigines and collector of aboriginal art. His wife Janet now runs his empire.

Indonesia extends lottery for 3 years

JAKARTA (R) — The Indonesian government has decided to extend its lottery for three years despite protests by thousands of Muslims who claim gambling violates Islamic Law, a spokesman for the lottery said Friday. The spokesman said the Social Affairs Ministry made the decision last month to extend the lottery, whose six-year licence expires in December. Some 5,000 Muslim students and youths marched through Bandung in West Java Wednesday after Social Affairs Minister Endang Kusuma Suwono said the government planned to extend the lottery because it funds social events such as sports. Local newspapers reported that several students and a military official were slightly injured in a clash. Muslims in West Java have staged recent protests against the government-sponsored lottery on religious grounds while human rights activists say it lures the poor into spending their money. The lottery, with ticket prices at 1,000 rupiah (\$47 cents) and 5,000 rupiah (\$2.38), offers a one billion rupiah (\$475,000) prize every week in this overwhelmingly Muslim country.

Over 100 million Chinese are aged over 60

PEKING (AFP) — China has more than 100 million people aged over 60 and their number is growing by three per cent a year, official figures showed Friday. By 2,000, the country will have 130 million over-60s, 10 per cent of the population, the Xinhua News Agency said. They already represented more than 10 per cent of the populations of Peking and Shanghai. Average life expectancy for a Chinese was now 71 years, it said. China was rare among developing countries in having so large a proportion of aged in its population, a phenomenon more common in industrialised countries such as Sweden and Britain. Chinese demographic analysts have expressed concern about the ageing of the country's population in view of central government laws prohibiting city-resident couples from having more than one child. Increasingly, those children would find themselves responsible for the care of the elderly, the analysts said.

Couple fined \$2,500 for 2nd child

PEKING (AFP) — A Chinese couple was fined 14,695 yuan (\$2,500) for refusing to abort their second child in contravention of the country's single-child law, a provincial newspaper reported. And, because the couple was unable to pay more than 12,000 yuan (\$2,068), a court ordered the seizure their television set, washing machine and other belongings as well, the Heilongjiang Legal News said. The average yearly earnings of a Chinese is 4,000 yuan (\$689).